

THE AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH FOOTBALL WITNESS

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRAL

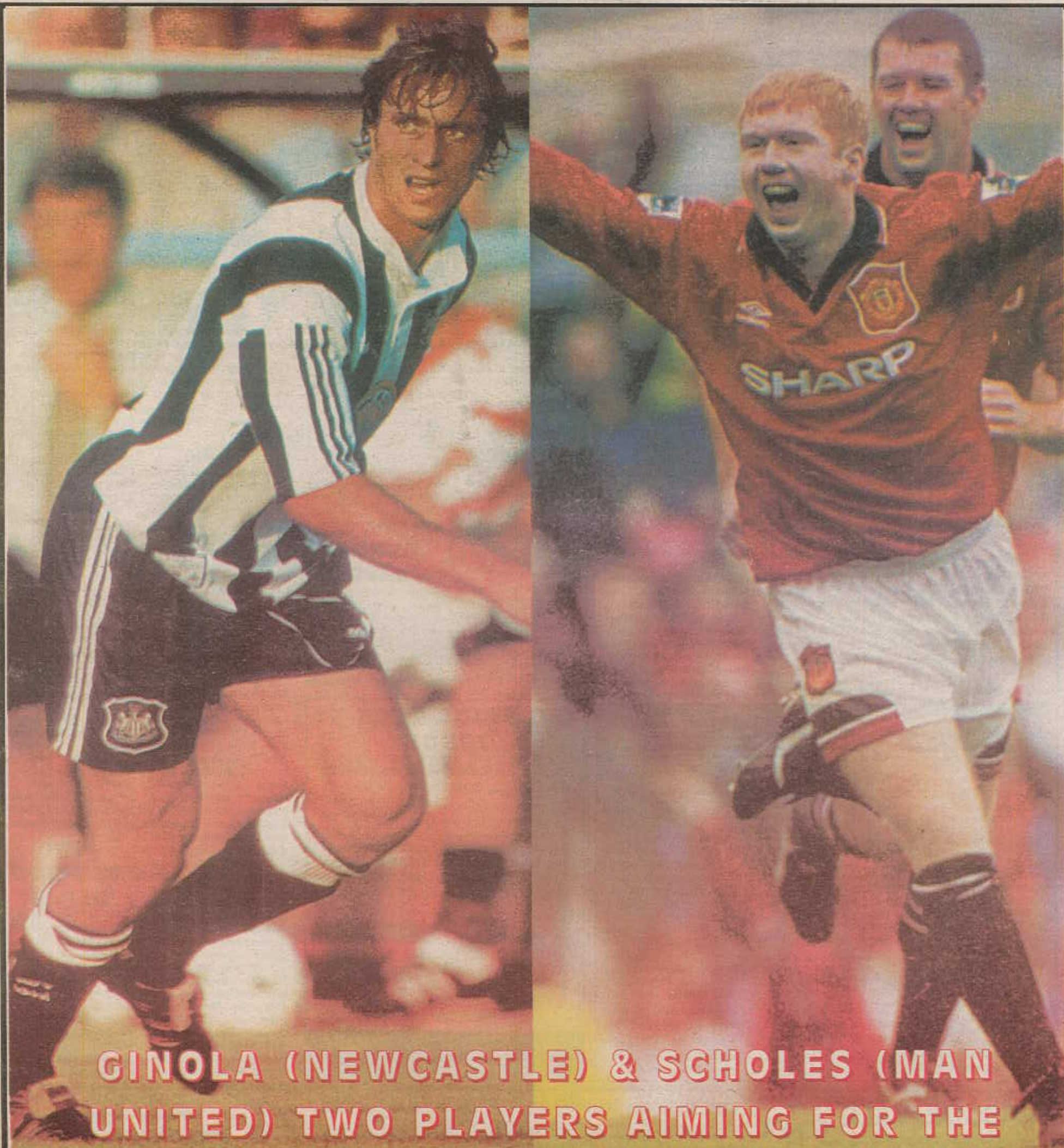
SOCCER

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**GINOLA (NEWCASTLE) & SCHOLLES (MAN
UNITED) TWO PLAYERS AIMING FOR THE
PREMIER LEAGUE TITLE**

MARCONI THROUGH THE YEARS

Editorial

The controversy over club logos or badges continues to rage. A very public statement was made last Wednesday by David Hill to the effect that unless Marconi changed their badge then they would be barred from the Ericsson Cup competition.

An equally adamant Tony Labbozzetta, President of Club Marconi, has made numerous appearances on TV and radio stating that that organisation would not change.

Mr Hill stated that he, on behalf of Soccer Australia, would have one more meeting with Marconi to try to get the Club to change its badge. It may have been more prudent to have the meeting and then the Press conference.

The way the situation was presented it appeared there was no room for compromise by the chairman of Soccer Australia.

Both parties have painted themselves into their corners. It is obvious that neither will shift from their respective stances. That is a shame.

Let us consider the alternatives!

1. Marconi excluded from the Ericsson Cup. Players, the 20,000 Club membership and pure soccer supporters deprived of attending games at Marconi Stadium. The Ericsson Cup running like a lame duck with one team having a bye each week.

2. Marconi enters an Asian competition. This could be Singapore, Malaysia even Korea. Marconi Stadium hosts games in competition with the Ericsson Cup and draws bigger crowds.

Soccer Australia attempts through FIFA, to have Marconi banned from any of these alternatives.

3. Marconi and other disaffected clubs form their own six team competition. These clubs run it themselves.

The Ericsson Cup runs in competition but with only eight teams.

4. When Australia plays international matches, players registered with Marconi and the other 'rebels', are barred from being selected. In any case those players won't be match fit if they are not playing.

Soccer Australia selects players from their own 'loyal' clubs for Australian teams. The team is weak, dispirited and loses to Tahiti!

There must be a compromise for the sake of soccer but more importantly for the business side of the equation, which seems to have been left out of the debate.

Sport is moving on from being an event in isolation to being a business in total. Potentially this business will have a multi million dollar turnover. Budgets of \$5 million dollars a year for each national league team will be common.

If this minor bickering continues, the potential will never be realised and soccer will continue as the poor relation of the football codes in Australia.

BY GEORGE GREEN

So David Hill is determined to drag soccer in Australia into the mainstream of Australian sport.

Good luck to him. He is the first and only head of soccer in Australia to make an attempt but to precipitate head-on clashes with clubs in the full glare of unwanted media attention is not going to be helpful.

The confrontation with Marconi over colours in their logo borders on the ridiculous, as the "offending" material occupies such a small portion of the emblem.

Small patches of green, white and red. Marketing "experts" who designed some of the recent poor promotional materials and the ASF logo (now superseded) may have advised poorly.

If a competent marketer cannot use his skills to accommodate the valuable traditions of the Club founders and multicultural audience of 18 million, he has not earned his fees.

ANALYSIS OF THE CASE

But let's analyse the case. Maybe those who advised Mr Hill that the Marconi Fairfield badge was "un-Australian" should have spent some of their highly-paid time to look a little more closely at the "offending" item.

The wording "Club Marconi" maybe could be "Australianised" as "Marconi Club".

The globe indicates that football is The World Game, a theme I have not seen used in Soccer Australia or ASF promotion in the past. (Promotion? you ask. What promotion?) So maybe Marconi Fairfield is more aware of this vital fact of our game than those whose job it is to promote it.

The boomerang is an internationally-recognised emblem of Australia.

Marconi Fairfield recognised this back in 1960 and included it in the club badge. Hardly un-Australian? "But," screamed the Marketing Whizz Kids, "Mr Marconi is a bloody foreigner!"

If they had bothered to check, Guglielmo Marconi was born in a country other than Australia but so was Mr Hill, who, we fervently hope, will achieve his ultimate aim for soccer without destroying a club which boasts no fewer than



Peter Wilson: Former 'Stallion' and World Cup Finalist.

107 different ethnic backgrounds in its 20,000 membership.

SWITCHED ON MARCONI SWITCHED ON SYDNEY LIGHTS

Guglielmo Marconi's contribution to world communications is beyond dispute. But, Soccer Australia advisers, did you know that Marconi's genius made world scientific history when he used his invention of "wireless" to turn on the lights in Sydney Town Hall in 1932 with a signal from the other side of the world?

So, even the name of Marconi Fairfield has more claim to being directly part of Australia's history than names like "Cowboys",

"Crushers" or "Panthers".

Then we are left with only one element in the offending logos which one cannot defend — its shape in the form of a shield. Now, we don't have shields in Australia except *Sheffield Shield*, but that carries a name from a once-powerful country which has dropped down from a world-dominating position because its leaders lacked vision and failed to adjust to a changing world.

VISIONARY NEEDED

Soccer in Australia needs a visionary, and maybe Mr Hill is that person in the rapidly-changing sporting world in Australia. True, he has made enemies and changes have been slower than the expectations of country "hicks" like us in the

Lismore District area where, in a few decades, the real football has grown from virtually nothing to over 4,500 registered players.

We, along with the best part of half a million players in Australia, hope that Mr Hill and the Marconi Board can reach a compromise. We urge him to consider the following points, which doubtless will appeal to him, as a battler who started with nothing — a situation shared with those who founded Marconi Fairfield.

1. The Marconi Foundation Membership of 235 contained several dozen names of origins other than Italian and included Grays, Martins, Woods and Harwoods.

2. How many clubs in our premier competition have playing and training facilities to equal Marconi Fairfield?

3. How many clubs (or even Soccer Australia) recognised the century of the first recorded soccer game in Australia on August 14, 1880, between The King's School and a local team called "The Wanderers" on what is now part of Parramatta Park? Marconi did! They honoured the occasion by donating an annual perpetual trophy to The King's School for the most outstanding soccer player. Hardly the actions of an introverted ethnic group.

4. How many clubs have won four national titles, been three times runners-up, won one National Cup and, through their affiliation with Southern Districts Association, encourage and assist the soccer careers of over 4,000 juniors?

5. How many clubs can boast 312 players in grades from 7 to 16 and in the Women's League in the 1996 season? The number of recent premierships, championships and trophies is mind boggling! The Club provided Australian kids with opportunities to play in Sweden

and Viareggio, Italy.

The women's team played in Rome, Milan and Verona, raising the image of Australian soccer with incredible results.

6. Without being asked, in 1976 a group of Club Marconi members held a card evening to help my daughter, Robyn, in the Miss Australia Quest, a fundraiser for the Spastic Centre of New South Wales. Since then, the Club has adopted the Spastic Centre as a favoured community activity and raised \$3,700,000 for the Centre. The Australians suffering cerebral palsy whose lives have been made a little better would certainly urge Mr Hill to "please consider", as they say in the television commercial.

If the six points raised do not convince Soccer Australia that Marconi Fairfield is truly Australian in its outlook, let's check the contribution its players have made to the Australian National Team.

FIFTY FIVE INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS

Fifty-five Marconi Fairfield players during their careers have been capped in full international appearances. And they go back a long way.

National players who made their Marconi debuts in 1969 include the enigmatic Ray Richards (32 caps), Les Scheinflug (6 caps), George Nuttal (4 caps) and only one Italian name — John Giacometti (3 caps).

Peter Wilson (64 caps) first played for Marconi in 1972. He was one of Rale Rasic's Socceroos in 1974, a team of part-timers, whose achievement in reaching the World Cup finals is yet to be repeated. Peter's team mates included Ernie Campbell (15 caps) 1971; Col Curran (22 caps) 1971; Alan Maher (22 caps) 1975; Peter Ollerton (31 caps) 1978; Jimmy Rooney (57 caps) 1977; and Max Tolson (16 caps) 1972.

Marconi Fairfield supporters proud of more recent players who have graced the Bossley Park pitch. These include Matthew Bingley (5 caps and more to come), Steve Corica (7), Ron Corry (28), Frank Farina (36), Tony Henderson (27), Mark Jankovics (15), Peter Katholos (14), Eddie Krncevic (20), the unbelievably overlooked David Lowe (3), John Markovski (8), Tom McCulloch (14), Gabriel Mendez (4), Paul Okon (2), Ivo Prskalo (13), Peter Raskopoulos (15), Mark Schwarzer (4), Peter Sharpe (23), Marshall Soper (5), Dominic Longo (5) and Francis Awartitefe (4).

I am sure that Mr Hill would agree that the Marconi Fairfield contribution to the careers of the above-mentioned "Who's Who" of Australian soccer has been of great value to Soccer Australia.

MAKE BOOMERANG ALL BLUE?

But back to the logo/badge/emblem — call it what you will. You can't fault the line drawing or the name. Maybe a solution to the problem could be to make the boomerang all blue — a colour which should suit all concerned.

A solution must be found. If not, Soccer Australia and the Ericsson Cup will be a laughing stock and the State league will be a little lop-sided.

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PORT KEMBLA SOCCER CLUB'S

Sportsman's Dinner



WARREN EXCITES GUEST WITH SPEECH

PORT KEMBLA SOCCER CLUB, the current champions of the Illawarra Soccer Association's Premier League, last Friday night staged a highly successful and very entertaining 'Sportsman's Dinner' attended by just over 150 guests that wined and dined at the magnificent and most scenic venue, the 'Harbour Front Restaurant' at North Wollongong.

Special guest, and after-dinner speaker, was former Australian World Cup skipper, John Warren.

The astute Warren was loudly applauded by a packed house for his extremely down to earth and exact, yet emotional rhetoric on the problem that is currently being suffered by Australian Soccer.

Following a sumptuous four course dinner that was heavily loaded with succulent seafood, Warren abruptly kicked off his speech with: "Soccer within 10 years will become Australia's Number 1 sport".

The normally very conservative Warren with his astounding opening line, immediately commanded instant respect and attention as the entire venue plunged into cathedral-like silence.

The starved for Australian club and international success of the Soccer-audience waited with bated breath to hear what Warren knew that they didn't.

But the mystery was over within seconds as the former Australian World Cup captain sternly, but regrettably, went on to add:

"These were the words that my Grandfather told my Father when he was a kid.

"My Father almost 50 years later, repeated the same words to me when I was a kid.

"Unfortunately this will never happen.

"What is currently happening, again, with our Soccer hierarchy, is a disgrace.

"Yet another all-in brawl going public over logos, ethnic colours etc".

Warren then methodically launched into a sustained attack for almost half an hour elaborating on the lack of intelligence, maturity, unity and beneficial thought for the sport of Soccer being exhibited by almost all of our self-centred, and unfortunately high-profiled

officials.

So exact, moving and direct was Warren's speech, the entire house applauded him loudly with many guests later clammering for almost two hours to approach, speak and congratulate him.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Special plaque presentations were made to Warren and Adrian Alston, respectively by the Club's young president Mr Vince Raschilla and industrious Team manager Mr Joe Melillo, on behalf of Port Kembla Soccer Club.

The double presentations were made to commemorate the services of the two former internationals who were both key members of Australia's 1974 World Cup team that went to Germany for the finals.

AUCTION

Former A.C. Milan and Marconi guest-midfielder, Angelo Colombo, who had visited the Port Kembla Soccer Club on many occasions when he came to Australia, recently sent to the club an A.C. Milan track-suit.

This highly prized outfit was auctioned last Friday night by Port Kembla's Director, Mr David Carvana to raise funds for the players pool.

Enthusiastic bidding which exploded from the floor soon saw the bright red tracksuit's value rocket to an astounding winning bid of \$1,000.



Former Australian World Cup striker and current coach of Port Kembla, Adrian Alston (left), receives his special plaque from the Club's industrious Team-manager, Mr Joe Melillo.

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

UNIQUE RECORD

Port Kembla Soccer Club, who are today coached by former Australian World Cup striker, the forever flamboyant Adrian ('Noddy') Alston, holds a unique record.

Mr Vince Raschilla, Port Kembla's energetic 29 year

have won the Corrimal Leagues K.O. and the Charity Shield.

"Having already missed out on the minor championship to Lysaghts this season following last Sunday's results, our aim now is to achieve back-to-back Grand Final wins", ended Mr Raschilla.



Port Kembla Soccer Club's dedicated young president, Mr Vince Raschilla (left) presenting a special plaque to former Australian World Cup captain, John Warren last Friday.

old president, boasted to ABSW (also invited to the function): "Our Club is the only Soccer club to hold five trophies at the one time.

"Last season we won the 'treble' (minor championship, Grand Final and Bampton Cup).

"So far this season we

A disappointed Port Kembla coach Alston, who last season won everything in the first division that was to be won and thus ultimately gain promotion into the Premier League this season, stated to ABSW last night: "Although we beat Wollongong Olympic 5-2

last Sunday at Brandon Park after trailing 2-1 at halftime, we are now six points clear in second spot, with three rounds left.

"We now can't catch league leaders Lysaghts who are coached by Casey De Bruin.

Port Kembla's major sponsor is the 'Fraternity Club'

Leading goalscorer is the

outstanding striker, 21 year old Billy Kampas who to date has hit 12 goals.

The team's most valuable players are 21 year old utility man Jai Rathbone, 22 year old

defender Robbie Davies and the ever-green, highly experienced and solidly reliable 34 year old sweeper, Jock Morlando.



President with his vice-president. Port Kembla Soccer Club's dynamic duo, president Mr Vince Raschilla with the vivacious Ms Maria Cazzolli.

BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS



COACHES FOR 1997

Blacktown City Soccer club consists of the:
Super League Football Club
Super Youth League

Blacktown Association Division 1 Youth League
Blacktown Association Junior League

We are seeking applications for the following positions in 1997.

1. DIRECTOR OF YOUTH COACHING

SUPER YOUTH

2. Under 13
3. Under 14
4. Under 15
5. Under 16

DIVISION 1 YOUTH LEAGUE

6. Under 13
7. Under 14
8. Under 15
9. Under 16

JUNIOR LEAGUE

10. Under 11
11. Under 12

WOMENS LEAGUE

12. First Grade
13. Res Grade

Applications setting out your qualifications and experience should be sent to:
Secretary, Blacktown City Soccer Club, PO Box 98, Seven Hills, NSW. 2147.

Applications for all positions close Monday August 26, 1996.

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STAR PROFILE Anthony Brown



Date of Birth: December 22nd, 1970.
Birthplace: Toowoomba, Queensland.
Previous Clubs: St Albans, Willoburn.
Current Club: Brisbane Lions.
Position: Striker.
Nickname: 'Brownie'.
Marital Status: Married.
Occupation: Labourer.
Best Aspect Of Your Game: Scoring goals.
Most Difficult Opponent: Mark Greer.
Most Impressive Local Player: Rob Farrow.
Favourite Overseas Player: Alan Shearer.
Favourite Overseas Club: Chelsea.
What Should Australia Do To Qualify For Next World Cup: New Coach.
What Qualities Make a Good Coach: Good communicator and have a passion for game and his players.
Honours: Qld team, Under 20s 1986 and '87.
Ambitions For 1996: Premiers to win Grand Final.
Ambitions After Retiring: Coaching.
Most Memorable Moment: First baby daughter (Jessica).
Hobbies Outside Soccer: Fishing.
Best Goal You've Seen Scored: Frank Farina's free-kick at ANZ Stadium.
Favourite Food: Lasagne.
Favourite Drink: Milk.
Car You Drive: Ford Falcon.
Favourite TV Show: Seinfeld.
TV Show You Refuse To Watch: Days Of Our Lives.
Favourite Movie: Braveheart.
Favourite Actor/Actress: Kevin Costner, Meg Ryan.
Preferred Music: Rock.
Least Preferred Music: Heavy Metal.
Favourite Comedian: Seinfeld.
Pet Hates: When the fish aren't biting.
Special Advice To Young Players: Don't give up on your goals in life.
Person You Would Most Like To Meet: Pele.

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

The Debate Continues

SIR ARTHUR GEORGE JOINS DEBATE

I have listened with dismay to a debate in the media about a policy decision of the Board of Soccer Australia.

The Board of Soccer Australia democratically and constitutionally elected is charged with the power and the obligation to make policy decisions which it considers are necessary in the interest of the game.

Its policy decision in the current dispute has the support of the majority of the Council of Clubs representing all national league clubs. It is clear therefore that the minority have to accept the policy decision and act accordingly or withdraw from the competition.

Talk of a rebel competition is an offence in itself and in the unlikely event of it preceeding would, after due



Sir Arthur George: "Minority have to accept the policy decision."

process, result in FIFA suspending the clubs, the officials and players who remain with them.

Players would immediately be free of any contractual obligations.

The minority should be finally and formally asked once more to adhere to the decision of the Board or otherwise face the consequences.

Editors Note: Sir Arthur George is a former President of the Australian Soccer Federation. He is currently a FIFA Executive Member and an Honorary Member of FIFA.



MEETINGS RESOLVE LITTLE

Soccer Australia remained at loggerheads with Sydney United and Marconi last Friday after meeting the boards of both clubs on the contentious issue of European symbols in team logos.

Neither Soccer Australia nor the clubs conceded any ground with all parties agreeing to keep talking.

But both clubs were adamant they were not prepared to compromise on their logos which have brought them into confrontation with the national body.

Soccer Australia chairman David Hill, SA chief executive officer David Woolley and Ericsson Cup general manager Stefan Kamasz met the United board and then Marconi's.

Hill said there was still a fundamental problem between the two sides.

Southern Districts state their case

Larry Grant, as President of Southern Districts Soccer Football Association advises the true position concerning Club Marconi and the current dispute with Soccer Australia.

S.D.S.F.A. have 6,000 junior players in their care and we have had an adjoining agreement with club Marconi for over 10 years now which is current until the Year 2000. The agreement covers office facilities, youth development coaching clinics at club level for 3 clubs, joint super Youth League teams, junior passes to all senior matches and endless ongoing professional assistance to our member clubs and their juniors.

Club Marconi seniors and juniors play in two shades of blue colours, the red, white and green on the boomerang on the logo are southern district colours and have been worn proudly by this district for 35 years. The colours on the logo are considered by this district as a further display of the co-operation and friendship between this



district and the club Marconi.

Club Marconi is not Italian based, it is very much community based. The club provides an outlet for seventeen different sports and activities covering a wide area of the local community.

We have at least seven ethnic based clubs playing soccer in this association and we as a district, are mature and sports minded enough to accept that this game of soccer is a cosmopolitan game with strong ties to the "old countries" of a lot of families and fine Australians. We were here before David Hill and we will be still here after David Hill and his funny little ideas.

If a supporter wants a club Marconi jersey he will buy it, and in most cases would be offended if the original logo had been tampered with.

We, as a local sporting association, with 6,000 players, are very proud of our relationship with club Marconi both for their fine professional assistance to our young players and their community involvement.

Come in our club and see for yourself how many of us are not Italian but are very, very much club Marconi right down to our red, white and green blood.

MARCONI FAIRFIELD STALLIONS "SUPER SIXES"

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FORMAT: As Euro 96 / Groupings of 4 / Winners of Group continue

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☎ 02 9823 2222

(Registrations Close 5pm, Friday August 23, 1996)



Giant Soccer Ball Lost!



The World's largest Soccer ball has gone missing! A couple of years ago, Umbro, in Sydney, loaned out a giant inflatable Soccer ball to Clubs and Associations for promotional purposes.

It made a great impression every time it was used to promote the World Game.

Unfortunately it was not returned about two years ago and no record was kept to indicate the last borrower.

The ball in deflated state is heavy enough to need two people to lift it, so it is unlikely that it is forgotten in

a desk drawer.

If some club has a rubber monster, taking up room in a shed, or if any of ABSW wide circle of true soccer supporters can recall seeing the lost ball, please call Andrew Koska at Umbro (02 9568 2022). Or if the custodians are too embarrassed to contact Umbro, please call George Green, Lismore Association Football Inc. (066 283952).

After use in Lismore City 50 year celebrations it will be returned to Umbro, no questions asked, no guilt attached.

Last week's edition carried a 1996 team group photograph of St George BSC from the NSW Soccer Federation Super League.

Was gently told by the team coach, Peter Katholos (right) that he had been cut off the picture.

To make up for this, here is an individual

photograph of the former Australian international.

Peter is well known for his forceful and competitive spirit on the field of play.

It will come as no surprise to learn that these same character traits extend to the golf course.

@@@@@@@@@@@

Part of the Culture

Dear Sir,
Football around the world quite simply is life. Football in Australia quite simply is rubbish. There is a simple solution to even up the equation.

Football has to be part of the culture here. That is achieved through glorifying the national league clubs, and promoting them in every way possible.

But Anglo-Saxon Australians have to want to be persuaded to come to football matches in Australia.

For too long ethnic clubs have stood over others holding back the code for the sake of their national passion. What right do they have to do this.

Imagine going to Yugoslavia and setting up a club called Belgrade Australia, playing in Australian strips, acting in a

hostile way to native born Yugoslavs who came to the ground and signing C'mon Aussie c'mon.

They just wouldn't let it happen and it wouldn't be right. The same should be true here.

Ethnic clubs say that the National League wouldn't be where it is without them.

True, and at the moment it is nothing, absolutely nothing.

Now times are changing, and Australian football no longer needs ethnic clubs to survive.

Now these clubs have to conform to Soccer Australians rules, and if they won't, they won't just be kicked out due to regulations, but with a passion to further the game here.

Will Johncock,
Scullin, ACT.

Convert supports Clubs

Dear Sir,

In response to David Hills' ruling to abolish all ethnic logos from Australian soccer clubs, I write to giving my support to all clubs recognising tradition and staying with current logos, colours etc.

Although I am not a longtime supporter of Australian soccer, I am a passionate one who first became involved because of such a wide array of backgrounds that soccer Australia "supported".

I now see Hill and Co demolishing the very thing that attracted me to the game.

It is at this stage I would like to point out that I have absolutely no ethnic base in my family, yet my favourite team is Sydney United (Croatia).

It is because of their passion that I will support them, Melbourne Knights and UTS Olympic rather than follow my home team, Brisbane Strikers. It is also for the sportsmanship shown by Branko Culina, Tony Popovic, Ante Milicic and the boys that I pledge my undying support to all at the club.

So, David Hill, I hope that you take some other opinions into account when thinking of ejecting the stalwart clubs, which are involved, from the league. Take it from a Rugby League convert, we have an excellent product, we just need a better marketing team.

Melissa Bond,
Bracken Ridge, Qld.

Letters to the Editor Overflow

Dream of Gold and Green

Dear Sir,

As the ultimate goal of Circus Australia oops, Soccer Australia is to Australianise our game, I thought maybe I could help out with a few suggestions of my own.

CHANGES TO TEAM COLOURS

In future there will be one team in gold with one goalkeeper in green horizontal stripes on a gold background and one team in gold with one goalkeeper in gold horizontal stripes on a green background.

No other colours are allowed as all other colours are considered un-Australian.

OFFICIALS

Two linespersons, one in gold with a green flag and one in green carrying a gold flag. Both linespersons will at all times wear big eared kangaroo masks.

The referee will be outfitted in a tail-less kangaroo outfit, will carry a gold card which replaces the yellow card and a green card which will replace the red card. His whistle will be either gold or green.

THE GOALS

Crossbars and uprights are to be painted in gold and green stripes.

THE FIELD

Centre and corner flags will all be in gold and green. Line and spot markings will be in a gold colour. Nets will be coloured green. Grass will be lush green and must be grown to no less than 3m in height.

This will ensure that players won't be able to see further than their noses.

If in doubt about this highly technical skill, players are advised to approach our soccer administrators who have shown themselves so expert in this field.

LAW OF THE GAME will be re-written in Aussie-English. fair dinkum mate, no kidding.

Officials will be addressed as MATEY. Steel posts will be called ILLAWARRA'S and

timber posts will be known as WILLOWS. Throwing yourself at your opponent will change to KANGAROOING. Throw-ins will become CHUCKIES.

Bearers of ethnic names, including clubs will be banished to a place where there is darkness and chattering of teeth, FOREVER. All clubs will bear the district name followed by the term SKIPPIES e.g. BEGA SKIPPIES, CANTERBURY SKIPPIES.

The reserve teams will be allowed to use gold or green instead of skippies (only if permission is granted).

LOGOS

All teams will wear Aussie logos on their shirts such as a koala, platypus, dingo and baby with a backdrop of Ayers Rock.

Circus Australia will lead by example changing their logo to a ball and chains.

CANTEENS will sell only local white bread and true blue cheese. hot meat pies which tomato sauce will also be available.

TRANSPORT to and from games will be of GMH make. Thus we will uphold soccers three main pillars of strength-meat pies, kangaroos and Holden cars.

SPECTATORS must show current Aussie passport to enter any fixture. This will ensure a good crowd of three persons, two dogs, one cat, a lame duck and a few seagulls or a huge crowd of around two million Mr Smiths!

But, now enough with all this frivolity and you may well ask why have I not approached the powers that be with my suggestions?

Well you know what happened to Arok, Melita, Heidelberg, The ABC, The State Railways and others and thanks to Eager Beaver is happening to our beloved game right now.

Ozzie Joe Smith,
Sydney, NSW.

Delusions of Grandeur

Dear Sir,

Mr D. Hill is wrong, there is no proof (impossible to have) after altering the ethnic-related logos, the sale of the jumpers, will soar to 50-75% or, just 1%-3% or, to

nothing at all?!

So what Mr Hill does, at the moment, he believes only in his own imagination. In psychiatric terms he has delusions of grandeur, or craziness.

Which in is his well known pig-headedness is surely the logical conclusion.

R. Marton,
St Marys, NSW.

MACARTHUR DISTRICT SOCCER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

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6. Under 16 Super Youth League Coach
7. Under 15 Super Youth League Coach
8. Under 14 Super Youth League Coach
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11. Under 11 Junior League Coach
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TASMANIA, WREST POINT STATE LEAGUE LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
White Eagle	14	9	1	4	49	25	28
Devonport	14	8	4	2	47	25	28
Olympia	14	8	2	4	27	29	26
Hobart Juventus	13	7	2	4	33	27	23
Croatia Glenorchy	14	7	2	5	33	32	23
Launceston Juventus	13	7	2	5	24	23	20
Caledonian	13	3	5	5	27	30	14
South Hobart	13	4	2	7	26	31	14
Riverside Olympic	14	4	2	8	27	36	14
Launceston	14	1	0	13	17	40	3

Lotto Goal Scorers: A. Guilbert (Devonport) 20; T. Carson (Olympia) 15; B. Lakoseljic (Croatia) 14; R. Leszcynski (White Eagle) 13; D. Stoddart (White Eagle) 13.

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BRAWLERS FOR OLYMPIC TRIAL

Dear Sir,
Hearing Mr. Bob Carr, NSW Premier, talking about a Trial-Run prior to Sydney 2000 games it amazes me to hear him suggesting a Rugby League Grand Final to fill a 100,000 plus stadium.

The world has not heard of a violent game like Rugby League which admittedly has a strong following in NSW.

Strange to see a non-Olympic sport being selected as a pre-run for the Olympic competition.

One would need expensive world entertainers to fill the stadium to attract spectators besides the usual League supporters.

May I suggest inviting one of the world's soccer nations like Brazil, Argentina, England or Germany well in advance of the year 2000 and the Olympic Stadium can be filled twice over.

This was the case some years ago when Cosmos New York Soccer team visited Sydney and over 70,000 crammed into the Sydney Showground with many more thousands unable to enter the arena until the fence around collapsed and in no time at all the whole showground field was a sea of people.

It took some time to clear enough space for the game to start.

Look at attendances in the USA, not a soccer oriented country, at Olympic matches Soccer attracted well in the 80,000 plus crowds, far more than America's own Grid Iron games. Quality Soccer teams will attract huge attendances in Sydney.

These games would be more economical compared to others which need to be propped up by giving away thousands of free tickets or hiring expensive musical bands or entertainers from overseas.

Let's have a decent sporting event at the new Stadium instead of a brawl for Mugs and Some Thugs, because that is what Rugby League is all about with regular punch ups, glorified by the commentators.

Surely Rugby League will not be considered for a Olympic Trial-Run.

By approaching Soccer Australia arrangements can be made well in advance to invite one of the crowd pulling international Soccer teams for a full house.

Otto Bader
Warilla, NSW.

TIME FOR CHANGE

Dear Sir,
I cannot understand why Eddie Thomson is still coach of our national team after the disastrous performance of the Australian soccer team at the Atlanta Olympics.

How can we tolerate a team of players who left this country with two other coaches as well as Thomson, performing in such an amateurish way?

What kind of a team is it when it is leading Spain 2-0 to be beaten 3-2?

What kind of a team is it that sends off its world class forward Viduka half-way through the match?

What kind of a team is it that persists in playing a player like fiery Danny Tiatto who is constantly given a red card by the referee both here in Australia and overseas?

Wake up Soccer Australia.

It is time for a change. Contracts or no contracts it's time we dropped some of these has-been coaches and invested in a few Brazilian master coaches — and to hell with the cost!

I have been a supporter of South Melbourne Hellas (sorry Mr David Hill but my club will always be Hellas to me as without us Greek migrants there would be no club) since I arrived in Australia in 1954.

It is time to be positive. Think big by all means but please Mr Hill we need action. If you want to sell the world game to Australians, you will have to produce a winning team — one we can respect and look up to.

George Davatzis,
Carlton, VIC.

Mainstream David Hill

Dear Sir,
In response to your article "Knights Under Notice" (ABSW date June 18 1996) and the various media reports, I provide the following response.

In a democratic country such as Australia that contains so much wealth, in fact the current budget set by the Australian Government to give to the British Commonwealth is \$900,000,000, in overseas aid indicates that we are no third world country.

Surely the Australian Government could utilise some of its wealth and professional personnel to develop this great world game of football (Soccer) in a proper, democratic and professional manner to the level of other world football nations such as Italy, Germany, France, Spain etc. For example, when Maradona played in Sydney with the Argentinian team the Sydney Football stadium was filled to capacity. Australia

could be involved in elite competitions which would create a tremendous amount of employment and revenue for all Australian clubs to share and enjoy.

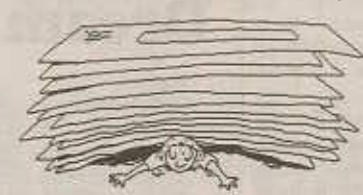
After reading the "Knights Under Notice" article by David Hill and Soccer Australia, I found it difficult to comprehend the appalling, degrading, racist and biased path they have taken against the Australian ethnic community. By saying they intend taking the game to "Mainstream Australia" and for the removal of all European nationalism, i.e. flags, emblems and colours etc.

Well Mr Hill and Soccer Australia, lets define your term "Mainstream Australia". Is it:

- Anglo-Saxon race
- Capital city populations
- Populations of all towns, cities and territories
- All state populations
- Multi-cultural, ethnic,

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



Short letters of about 400 words will be given preference in this column.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

CUP, HOME AND AWAY FARCE

Dear Sir,

Having read your article on the Waratah Cup Debate, I would like to add to Joe Watson's criticism. The representative of Soccer NSW, who conducted the draw, announced that the team drawn first out of the hat for each game would be the home side.

The games were to be played on Sunday 1st September. When asked if that meant the tie would be played at that club's home ground, he answered yes.

When asked how that would affect the 1st Division Premiership final round and semi finals, he said that the Premiership would take precedent.

Of the 1st Division clubs in the draw, Hills United and Sydney Cosmos were drawn at home whilst Bathurst 75 were drawn away against Parramatta Eagles. At the time of writing, Hills United have not been notified of any change to the draw or venues except what has been stated in your newspaper.

When questioned, the Soccer NSW Competition Secretary confirmed that there had been changes made by the Board of Directors and that we should have received notification by Wednesday 7 August.

The only communication we have so far received from the Federation has been the change of dates and times for the Round 9 games against West Wanderers that should have been played on 1st September.

We have now heard a rumour that the Round 6 Cup game is to be played on

Saturday 31st August.

It would appear that the NSW Soccer Federation is prepared to change venues and dates to indulge the larger NSL clubs at the expense of those that really create the income of the Federation.

Our club will indeed lose income from the rescheduling of the last Premiership round to a mid week.

The Federation does not appear to understand, or perhaps care, that 1st Division clubs rely on the fact that they gain support from all three teams playing on the same day.

To play the Under 18 game on a different day to the Under 21 and 1st Grade games means a loss of income in excess of \$1,000.00 (our average gate takings and canteen profits on weekends is \$1200-1400.00).

There will be few supporters in attendance on Tuesday and Wednesday nights. On top of this, they seem to have overlooked the fact that there will be little revenue for Sydney Cosmos playing a home game at Wollongong and even less for Hills United or Sutherland Sharks.

We are informed that the count of gate takings for the early game will end at 1.15pm.

All other revenue will be considered to be for the main game. As there is little reason for Sutherland supporters to travel to Wollongong to see their team play a 1st Division side three weeks after their own competition has ended and, even less for Hills United supporters when their team has little chance of success, it

is hard to see any purpose in making these two teams play so far from home.

A game played on a ground of our choice may have given Hills some chance against the season's leading club in the Super League and, it certainly would have brought in enough gate money to pay the referee's fees and leave something over to be split between the two clubs and the Federation.

The President of the NSW Soccer Federation, Mr Peter Gray is quoted as saying that "This is the biggest and richest Soccer Cup in Australia". The competition has been likened to the FA Cup.

However, it is a major point of that English competition that the smaller clubs get the opportunity to play the bigger ones at their own grounds in order to create revenue and equalise the opportunity for advancement.

The magic of the Cup is in no small way due to the giant killing antics of minor clubs drawn at home against the likes of Liverpool and Manchester United.

One run of games can change the fortune of a club. A home game for Hills United with ground advantage could have resulted in a draw against Marconi with all the eventual cash influx and advertising that such an opportunity would create for our club. This is now unlikely to eventuate because of the lack of consideration for their member clubs by the Board of the NSW Soccer Federation.

David Guy, President
Hills United Soccer Club,
Baulkham Hills, NSW.

Blacktown Rovers

Dear Sir,

Re:- "Humour of the week." ABSW, Tuesday 6th August.

Please refer to last seasons English Premier League fixture list printed by ABSW first week games stated:

Blacktown v QPR (We won of course 1-0). A penalty scored in the first five minutes, scorer: Alan Shearer.

What a pity for us he has now gone to Adamstown (or is that Newcastle?)

Don McTaggart,
Blacktown, NSW.
City Supporter



David Hill: Under fire from many quarters with his attempts to smarten up the Soccer scene.

indigenous, or any other word to describe Australian citizens.

Surely it could not be items b, c, or d because since Mr Hill's appointment as Chairman of ASF there have been 33 rounds of football played plus the minor and major semi-finals and the final, and yet not one game was shown live on television.

Compared to the previous year when the "Match of the Day" was televised live every Sunday on SBS.

Could you imagine this happening to other sporting codes such as Aussie Rules, Rugby league, Cricket etc. How much growth would these codes have without proper management and promotion on television. What would their supporters and sponsors say?

Could you imagine this happening in England, Italy or France?

How can Australian supporters follow Soccer if they are not given the opportunity to watch it on television? Surely Mr Hill can not blame ethnic emblems for this.

Whilst people like Mr Hill were still in their bathtubs

playing with rubber duckies, the multi-cultural people in our communities worked hard and sacrificed much time and money over the past 40 years to develop grounds, build stadiums and fulfil all of the necessary criteria and to propel the game in this country virtually to world status.

This has been an outstanding effort, particularly as the game was played even at the top level on a semi-professional basis. Mr Hill's decision to remove ethnicity from the game degrades the efforts and dedication of these people.

So in a democratic country, what right has Mr Hill to eliminate clubs unless they adhere to his biased, racist, ill-conceived demands? Where are the parallels of democracy, freedom of speech, pride of being an Australian citizen to that of Mr Hill and Soccer Federation's Anglo-Saxon race policy they interpret as "Mainstream Australia"?

With reference to Soccer Australia's accusation that European national flags and emblems represent European nationalism, I find this racist and biased to the Australian multi-cultural community for the following reasons.

Nationalism is a very powerful term that better represents the activities of powerful countries such as England, France and Russia.

These are countries that ventured outside their own borders to take over and occupy other countries by placing their flag in that soil.

For example, the British Commonwealth included Australia, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Canada, India etc. France occupies part of Africa and islands in the Pacific Ocean. Russia previously occupied the Ukraine and Latvia and is currently still in Chechnya today.

The world has just witnessed a most brutal war in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, not to mention wars in the Middle East, Asia, Africa and northern Europe, and yet people from all these nations living in Australia have respected their Australian citizenship and remained calm throughout. "Lest We Forget" and God

bless those Australian ethnics who fought and died for Australia in Vietnam and other wars.

The context in which the Australian ethnic people are portraying their flag or emblem is not that of the above nationalism but merely of a cultural identity. Surely these people have the same right to be proud of their heritage, identity and culture as the Anglo-Saxons are proud of their Union Jack, Royalty and the Commonwealth.

Could you imagine the repercussions if Soccer Australia attempted to remove the red, ochre and black colours from an Australian aboriginal team's emblem?

If the ethnic people are European nationalistic minded they would have players like Mark Bosnich, Ned Zelic, Mark Viduka playing for Croatia and not for Australia.

If Soccer Australia is not biased they should remove the Union Jack from Australian flags used at soccer games because the Union Jack is the flag of England, which to me is in Europe just like Croatia, Italy and Greece.

The clubs that are indebted to their associated banks financially for trying to meet criteria like the Bradley Reports etc should have a democratic right to fulfill their obligations without being intimidated and blackmailed by Mr Hill and Soccer Australia. After all, their commitment was for Australian football.

The time has come for all associated clubs to stand united against these biased and racist policies and forward a uniform letter stating their grievances to the world governing body of football, FIFA, and to the Australian Anti-Discrimination Board.

Finally, do not let David Hill and Soccer Australia walk over the identity, heritage and cultural beliefs of your Mothers and Fathers.

These values have been endeared in us to be proud human beings to be equal to all mankind. This endearment is something that David Hill's money can never buy.

Frank Bradica,
Supporter and fan of
Australian Soccer.

COMMONWEALTH BANK BILL TURNER CUP

Almost blanket coverage from Queensland

Under the administrative talents of Queensland's Senior Manager David Donaldson of Windaroo Valley State High the tropical State almost achieved blanket coverage of entries for the Bill Turner Cup ranging from Cairns to the Northern NSW border.

While a total of 192 schools entered in 1996, Donaldson is keen to include the few that still haven't made the move.

Queensland, like the other Australian states has made great coaching advances in recent years which is certainly evident in all school systems.

Quite a number of teachers are accepting help from outside sources because of their own lack of coaching experience and they are learning.

Donaldson is still hopeful that this year will see a Queensland School win the Bill Turner Cup. Last year Yeppoon came within a whisker of taking the honours, losing on penalties to Westfields Sports High from Fairfield, NSW in a thrilling grand final.

Who knows 1996 could be Queensland's year.

VISIT BY NAMESAKE TO GAMES

Six Queensland schools teams were very surprised during July when Bill Turner himself turned up, to watch their matches, offer encouragement, take photographs and generally mix with teachers, pupils, parents and supporters.

In Queensland on other business Bill made time to see first hand progress that has been made in the State.

He came away very impressed indeed and plans to be at Beenleigh Soccer Club's ground on Saturday night August 24 for the Queensland semi-finals and

again the following afternoon for the play-off and the State final.

Townsville school, Kirwan plays St Josephs, Nudgee out of North Brisbane in the early fixture at 6.30pm followed by St Josephs, Stanthorpe, South West Queensland and Windaroo High playing out of the Gold Coast City Area.

While he did not see Kirwan and St Josephs, Nudgee in action he did watch the Stanthorpe and Windaroo teams and was strongly impressed.

AMAZED AT THE SKILLS

When he visited Toowoomba on a freezing evening for the St Josephs, Stanthorpe versus Bremer State High, Ipswich State quarter-final clash he was amazed at the skills displayed by the two sides.

He was quoted as saying: "I expected Bremer to be a class side being a school with a large population, and they were, but St Josephs made me sit up and take notice. Their skills were magic."

"Then I heard that their school had only 60 boys from Year 8 to Year 10 from which to make their team selection, their achievement was all the more astounding."

"By becoming Queensland State semi-finalists they had in effect reached the last 16 out of the total of 708 schools that set out on the journey to Newcastle, for the final on September 10."

Their state semi-final match against Windaroo should be a beauty with the somewhat contrasting styles making for exciting football.

The Gold Coast area was a tough one to win but Windaroo is a very strong side with an extremely committed coach and should start favourites.

HAPPY RETURNS

The first school to make this year's semi-finals was Patrician Bros. Fairfield when they defeated Christian Bros. Lewisham 3-0 thanks to a very talented midfield. The Fairfield school will be making a return to Newcastle.

Their best effort was in 1984 when they were finalists to the powerful Wallsend High.

In next Thursday's quarter-final to be played in Cessnock at Turner Park Cessnock will host Holy Cross Ryde.

The visitors also finished as finalists when in 1994 they lost a close encounter to Patrician Brothers, Blacktown.

Holy Cross are one of the most consistent schools in the competition.

The home side, Cessnock tasted victory in 1983 when they defeated Keira Boys from the NSW South Coast.

This game could be a thriller.

BIG CLASH

The last of the quarter finals is very intriguing. From the Riverina's Wagga Wagga comes Koorringal High with a 43-6 goal scoring record against the Western Area's Dubbo High with a 32-3 record.

Neither school has made it so far in the competition so both will be out to make it to Newcastle.

The only other school to reach the semi-finals from the west of NSW was Lithgow.

It is to be hoped that coaches Craig May, Dubbo and Kingsley Ireland, Koorringal will have their teams at full strength.

PRE-QUARTER FINAL

DUBBO 4 FRANCIS XAVIER 0

QUARTER FINAL

PATRICIAN BROS. FAIRFIELD 3 CHRISTIAN BROS. LEWISHAM 0

QUEENSLAND FINAL SERIES — CHRIS GREEN PARK, BEENLEIGH

SEMI FINALS — SATURDAY, 24TH AUGUST

Game 1: Kirwan HS (Townsville) v St Josephs Nudgee — 6.30pm

Game 2: St Josephs Stanthorpe v Windaroo Valley HS — 8.00pm

FINALS — SUNDAY, 25TH AUGUST

Game 1: Playoff for 3rd (Losers of Semi Finals) — 1.15pm

Game 2: Final (Winners of Semi Finals) — 2.30pm

STRIKERS ARE UNIQUE BEINGS

BY BOB BROOKS

"Strikers are not ordinary players." So says Dez Marton one of the most successful and consistent goalscorers this country has ever seen.

He believes that two team training sessions a week in which shooting practice happens, actually do more harm than good to the true striker.

Dez advocates giving the specialist strikers, in a team, half an hour with 20 balls each to keep shooting in their own style, not necessarily supervised by a coach. This should take place after the team training session.

Marton is of the firm belief that when a player has those special attributes of a 'goal sniffer' or 'nose for goal' it must be identified by the coaching staff. This should become obvious in the early to mid teens and can be recognised by the fact that a player gets into goalscoring situations.

These special traits must be nurtured and developed by

specialised coaching of those strikers.

Marton says that the days when all players were asked and trained to run all over the pitch to be 'total footballers' are fast disappearing.

He predicts that by the year 2000, if the 'total football' requirement continues there will be less and less goals scored which in turn would

drive people away from the World Game.

Eric Cantona is a prime example of a modern footballer. He is not expected to run everywhere, his job is to score goals with a piece of individual magic.

Cantona often appears to be uninvolved but when he gets the ball there's a chance of a goal.

In Australia, the former St George legend, believes that David Zdrilic of Sydney United is an outstanding example of a great striker. He could easily be a target of an overseas club within the next three years but first his talents have to be developed to ensure his deadly striking ability is enhanced.

Damian Mori is another

example of a goal getter. His undoubted unique talent is not always appreciated by his Club coaches. Marton reckons Mori's lack of workrate has seriously limited his appearances for Australia.

Manchester City are set to gain from Australia's loss.

The Dez Marton Goalscoring Academy has been successfully launched. It's first course finished in July. The ten in the older group all reported a big difference in their goalscoring ability when they executed their new found knowledge for their respective teams.

The next intake is Monday September 16. For those intending to study under the Master a great deal of dedication is required because sessions take place both before and after school at Ador Park, Rockdale.

The older group from the initial course realised how limited they had been. They are all working hard as individuals to build on what they have learnt.

See advertisement this page for how to register.



Dez Marton Group: Specialised coaching for a rare breed.

Goalkeeper training a fine art

BOOK REVIEW BY BOB BROOKS

The Goalkeeper Exercise Manual researched, compiled and written by Paul Jones is very well and simply explained.

The illustrations show in diagram form exactly what the exercise is all about. From reading of the methods any aspiring goalkeeper should be able to follow the book.

Jones is the goalkeeping Coach at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra. Several keepers who have attended the A.I.S. have been coached by Jones. Two have gone on to play for Australia at Senior level.

The Manual is A4 size, about like a school exercise book, easy to read and would photocopy easily. A club coach could copy those exercises he wanted his

keepers to practice, take them along to the session in plastic sleeves and show them what they were going to do and then carry them out.

Additionally a goalie could take the book and practice appropriate exercises from the Manual on their own or with a patient parent or good mate.

As Jones advocates repeating exercises for a large number of times, then someone accompanying a keen keeper could become bored.

However if all the repetitive exercising enables a boy or girl to emerge as a top flight goalkeeper then it would all be worthwhile.

See the advertisement on this page for details of how you can order the Goalkeeper Exercise Manual.



Bobby Catlin: Goalkeeper with Marconi Fairfield who has performed special exercises to achieve his status.

Sondico Goalkeeper Exercise Manual

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The Sondico Goalkeeper Exercise Manual provides goalkeepers & coaches with over 60 different exercises that will enhance team training. This exercise manual has been put together by Australian Institute of Sport goalkeeper coach Paul Jones. Using many of these exercises Paul has coached 5 Youth International goalkeepers, 3 Olympic Team goalkeepers as well as 2 Senior International Goalkeepers.

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Chris Coyne: Perth SC player in 1995.



Marc Wingell: Former Australia Youth international.

Due to restructuring, news from Western Australia will be curtailed.

We apologise for any inconvenience to our readers both in that State and across the country.



Michael Vassiliou: Attacks for Bayswater City Panthers.



Jason Smith: Floreat Athena player (in stripes) gets pass away ahead of Perth interceptors.



Alan MacKenzie: In control of the ball for Bayswater City Panthers.



Peter Murphy: Swan IC player looking worried.



John Mirco: Spearwood Dalmatinac this season.

Soccer West Coast Cup Round 3

	First	Res
Spearwood Dalmatinac v Floreat Athena	1-0	4-0
Olympic Kingsway v Perth SC	1-0	6-7pen
Western Knights v Inglewood Falcons	3-2	1-0
Sorrento v Rockingham City	3-1	2-0
Balcatta v Swan IC	1-0	0-2
Balga v Perth City	1-5	1-3



QUEENSLAND

XXXX League



QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION Perry Park, Abbotsford Road, Mayne, Queensland 4006 Phone: (07) 3252-5327 Fax: (07) 3252-1137

LIONS ADVANCE TO GRAND FINAL

BY GLENN DAVIS

Super sub Anthony Brown is again likely to be used off the Brisbane Lions bench in the Fourx League Grand Final on Sunday week despite his goal scoring feat to knock Rochdale Rovers out of the major semi final at Perry Park on Sunday.

Lions coach Miron Bleiberg was non-committed concerning a start for Brown who came on in the last 15 minutes for the injured Roy Huth to put Lions into their first Grand Final appearance for five years.

Brown was on the park for less than eight minutes when he sprinted onto a pass from fellow substitute Martin



Robert Farrow: Lions goalkeeper saved the day with spectacular save.

Bleiberg, however, was unfazed by Rochdale's dominance with the ball and congratulated his players for sticking to the game plan.

"We knew after they beat Brisbane City last week they would come at us early," Bleiberg said.

"It was obvious sooner or later we'd get them on the break after we stopped their service from the flanks and stopped Darren Hillier in midfield."

Hillier was easily Rochdale's star performer in the first half, forcing Lions keeper Rob Farrow into a spectacular save eight minutes in when he touched a curling shot into the upright.

Hiller again struck at goal nine minutes later, but this time his attempt just shaved the crossbar.

The second half was dominated for long periods by Rochdale, but attempts went astray from striker Keiran Cooper at the 65 minute mark and midfielder Brenley Jefford seven minutes later.

CITY SUBDUE ROVERS

While Lions receive the benefit of a week off next week, Rochdale will clash with Brisbane City in the preliminary final. City accounted for Taringa Rovers also 1-0 in their knock-out semi final.

As was the case with Rochdale, Taringa dominated but failed to convert several clear cut chances to finish off Brisbane City.

Taringa players were furious after the match with a

linesman's decision disallowing a Mark Bennett header which beat City keeper Daniel Duke eight minutes from time.

The goal, although refused for offside, was one of the rare occasions Taringa were not thwarted from the agile Duke who was easily the man of the match.

City eventually grabbed the winner four minutes after the controversial ruling when rangy defender Mark Greer caught Taringa keeper Andrew Hobbs stranded on his line to slam home the winner off a Nick Seely free-kick.

Taringa had ample opportunities to bury Brisbane City despite being minus goal scoring whiz Marc Flemington, but unfortunately striker Frazer Cuba left his goal scoring boots at home missing several simple attempts.

City coach Peter Tokesi acknowledged later that Taringa had played better and was thankful for Duke's four-star performance in goal.

"We didn't play well and won, but I'd rather do that than play well like we have done at times this season and lost," Tokesi said.

"The difference between the two sides was Danny Duke's performance for us in goal."



QUEENSLAND XXXX LEAGUE

SEMI-FINALS

Knock out
BRISBANE CITY 1
TARINGA 0

Major
BRISBANE LIONS 1
ROCHDALE 0

DIVISION TWO

Major Semi

Olympic Utd 3 St Albans 1

Knock Out Semi

Rocklea Utd 0 Mt Gravatt 2

DIVISION THREE

Major Semi

Mitchelton 4 Slacks Creek 2

Knock Out Semi

Newcastle 3 Souths United 2

DIVISION FOUR

Major Semi

Moggill United 1 South Star 3

Knock Out Semi

Southside Eagles 1 Bayside United 2



Matula, outpaced a tired Rochdale defender Gary Bratton to slot home the game's solitary goal on 38 minutes.

"Brown has not been starting because he has some limitations," Bleiberg said.

"But he's a very good player who can come on fresh when the other players are tired and cause trouble."

"Whether or not he starts in the grand final will depend on a lot of things, especially how he performs at training."

Brown, a regular bench warmer for Brisbane Lions, gave the former national league club the edge after his



side absorbed enormous pressure from Rochdale who clearly dominated possession in the match.

Apart from a Kevin Meacock shot cleared off the line by Rochdale defender Damien Harris just after half time, Lions rarely tested Rochdale keeper Clint del Santo.

Strikers pre-season tour

BY GLENN DAVIES

Brisbane Strikers' pre-season build up begins in earnest next week with a three match tour of Queensland country centres.

New coach Frank Farina will take an 18-man squad to the country cities of Bundaberg, Gladstone and Rockhampton where they will play representative sides.



Farina sees the tour as an ideal team bonding exercise as well as vital match preparation for the upcoming Ericsson Cup season.

"We've had a good preparation so far, but you can only do so much conditioning work," Farina said.

"I've always believed there is nothing better than games."

Farina also believes the tour will play an important promotional role for the Strikers as well as giving him a chance to eye local country talent.

"It's good for the young boys in our side to get to know the older ones and in general for team bonding," he said.

"But, it's also good for the country centres to see the Strikers live especially as a lot of these areas don't get to see television coverage of our games on SBS."

"A large percentage of Strikers' players come from regional Queensland, which indicates there is a lot of soccer talent in country areas throughout the State."

The Strikers' first match will be against Bundaberg tomorrow week (Wed August 28) at Martens Oval before they head off to play in Gladstone on August 30 and Rockhampton at Frenchville Sports Club on September 1.



Frank Farina: Taking the Strikers to provincial city areas.



Martin Matula: His cross provided the opportunity for Anthony Brown to score the only goal for Lions.

Northern New South Wales

SHANKO CLAIMS WINNING PENALTY FOR WOLVES

BY DANE SKAFTE

Highfields goalkeeper Craig Shanko scored the crucial winning penalty in his side's 11-10 win over Hamilton Warriors last Sunday in the final of the NBN Soccer League which was played at Whitebridge Oval.

With the game locked at 10-10 in the penalty shootout Shanko sent his opposing keeper Craig Harris the wrong way to win the match.

"This was the first penalty I've ever had to take", Shanko said. I knew the pressure was on me so I couldn't afford to miss. "I was happy with my performance today."

A very happy Wolves coach Steve Bland said after the game that his team had fought very hard and deserved the win "At the end the boys weren't prepared to come off the park with a loss."

"The most pleasing thing



Craig Shanko: Kept a clean sheet.

this year has been the commitment the lads have shown." Bland agreed that when it came down to penalties it could have gone either way.

"Cameron Fitchett had a blinder, so did Doug West and I was very pleased with Howard Tredinnick he's a class player. Full credit must go to Hamilton, they pushed us to the limit."

Both teams had much to prove in the final minutes Highfields lost to the Warriors two weeks ago in the major semi finals.

More than a thousand spectators turned up to cheer their sides on.

The Warriors had the first opportunity to draw blood in the opening fifteen minutes when Benn Lane's header went just wide of the post after a superb cross from Harry James.

Highfields continued to push forward towards the



Harry James: A late inclusion to the Warriors side.

Warriors goals and were unlucky not to have scored when a shot by Mark Wilson was touched over the bar by Craig Harris.

Just on the half time break Wolves striker Bret MacAuley looked dangerous after he crossed a ball, but Harris was on hand to save the Warriors.

Both sides played some entertaining football in the second half but failed to find the net.

Thirty minutes of extra time could not separate the teams so the game went to penalties.

Warriors coach Greg Smith said his team played wonderfully today despite losing, "They (Hamilton) were very committed out there I couldn't have asked for anything more."

"Once it came down to penalties someone was going to miss out and unfortunately it was us."

Breakers take on Wolves in Waratah Cup

BY DANE SKAFTE

Newcastle Breakers and Northern NSW first division club Highfields Wolves will meet in round six of the Waratah Cup at the Breakers Stadium, Birmingham Gardens on Sunday September 1, kicking off at 3.00pm.

The teams were drawn against each other at the Waratah Cup function in Sydney last week.

The eventual winner of this prestigious knockout cup competition will take away \$50,000.

Former Wallsend Red Devils leader Richard Hartley has signed a two year coaching contract with first division club Broadmeadow Magic. Hartley will take up his position as coach from the beginning of next year according to Broadmeadow's president Larry Urdarov.

"I think Richard (Hartley) will put a new input into the club. We need three or four more players for next season."

"The majority of our players are on a two year contract and have one year left."

"Our supporters have been very patient with the club over the past years and we must now give something back to them."

"Our main aim next year is to finish in the top four," Urdarov ended.



Bernie Ryan: Scored 30 goals for Dudley Redhead.

Birmingham Gardens has been undergoing repairs for the past eight weeks according to Breakers promotions officer Shane Johnson.

"We have been aerating the ground and turning it before we put the final top dressing on it" he said.

The stadium will get its first test when the Northern New South Wales first division grand final is played on Sunday August 25.

"The ground should be ready for this week if everything goes to plan."

"We want the ground in top condition for the start of the Ericsson Cup in early October", Johnson added.

Broadmeadow Magic Soccer Club recently celebrated their 30 year anniversary ball at the Macedonian Cultural Centre. More than 200 people attended the black tie affair including the first president Rade Eftimovski who spoke about the club's history over the past thirty years.

A good evening was had by all the past and present players in attendance.

ABSW correspondent in Newcastle, Dane Skafte was invited as a guest of the club and was very impressed with the hospitality and entertainment which was provided.

Newcastle Breakers home ground at



Rade Eftimovski: First President of Broadmeadow Magic in 1966.

ILLAWARRA PREMIER LEAGUE

BY PHIL MURPHY

The disappointment of last season was forgotten when Lysaghts beat Bulli 4-0 at Ball's Paddock on Saturday to take the premier league championship.

Lysaghts were forced to play second-fiddle to Port Kembla in the title race and grand final last season.

Coach Casey de Bruin had intended leaving Lysaghts at the end of last season. He decided he had some "unfinished business" and stayed on. Lysaghts had clinched the club championship a week earlier and there are still three rounds to go.

De Bruin said his players had worked tirelessly to make amends for last season's disappointment. Against Bulli, Lysaghts didn't find the net until the 75th minute through captain Phil Matias.

Then Steve Krishna, Shane Williams and John Danzo grabbed goals and the Lysaghts "faithful" finally had something to sing about.

For Bulli it was a case of dropping out of the top four but coach John Frew believes they can still make the playoffs.

It was significant that striker Brown made a comeback in reserve grade after missing more than half the season with an ankle injury.

Cringila "ran riot" at home to Westderra on Friday night. In their previous 18 games, they have scored a mere 12 goals but beat Westderra 4-0.

The Cringila statistics make interesting reading as they have conceded just 19 goals in their 19 games.

That was after allowing 11 in during their first five outings. Things certainly tightened up after that and at one stage they went eight games without conceding a goal.

Their record over the last 14 rounds has been a measly four against.

In the other Friday night game, Dapto striker Graeme Fletcher was used as a replacement and scored twice in his team's 2-1 win against Balgownie.

New coach Stuart Beedie has now been in charge for four games and Dapto have won their last three.

Fernhill moved into fourth place with a hard-fought 2-1 home win against Northern United on Saturday.

A week after celebrating their 70th anniversary, Fernhill struggled at times but led 1-0 at half-time through midfielder Peter O'Brien.

Aaron O'Brien equalised in the 50th minute and there were only 10 minutes left when Blake Montgomery grabbed Fernhill's winner after a strong run from Richard Peil.

After a slow start, coach Peter Willis has Fernhill looming as a real playoff threat.

The always confident Willis says Fernhill will finish in the top four and shock a few people in playoff series.

Consiston striker John Simonovski scored a minute from the end to give his team a 1-0 win against West Figtree at Kelly Park.

On Sunday, Port Kembla (second on the table) returned to form with an emphatic 5-2 away win against third-placed Wollongong Olympic. Olympic led 2-1 at half-time through Peter Kotamanidis and Manny Mavridis but Port Kembla took over midfield in the second half.

They scored through Billy Kampas, replacement Steve Baz and former Olympic striker Justyn Roberts (2).

POINTS TABLE: Lysaghts 47, Port Kembla 37, Wollongong Olympic 31, Bulli 29, Fernhill 29, Dapto 27, Balgownie 25, cringila 25, Consiston 23, Figtree 21, Northern United 17, Westderra 12.

WEEKEND DRAW: Figtree v Balgownie, Dapto v Cringila, Westderra v Bulli, Lysaghts v Fernhill, Northern United v Port Kembla and Consiston v Wollongong Olympic.



NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

SUPER LEAGUE

	1st	U/21
Adamstown Rosebud v Leichhardt	1-3	0-2
Warringah Dolphins v Adamstown Rosebud	2-1	1-0
Bonnyrigg WE v St George Saints	1-4	1-0
Bankstown City Lions v Illawarra Lions	4-1	7-2
Leichhardt Tigers v Canterbury Berries	0-3	1-0
Sutherland Sharks v Parramatta Eagles	1-3	2-4
Rockdale City Suns v Macarthur Rams	3-0	1-4
Blacktown City Demons v Central Coast	1-2	0-0

DIVISION ONE

	1st	U/21	U/18
Dulwich Hill v Auburn United	0-2	0-5	N/A
Fairfield Bulls v Mt Pritchard	1-2	1-4	0-2
Sydney Cosmos v Sthn Minotaurs	0-1	1-3	2-3
Penrith Panthers v West Wanderers	4-5	4-0	1-3
Bathurst '75 v Stanmore Hawks	1-0	4-1	3-1
Auburn United v Sydney Cosmos	1-1	1-2	0-4
Mt Pritchard v Mt Druitt Town	2-2	9-2	2-0
Stanmore Hawks v Sthn Minotaurs	2-0	1-3	0-4
Ryde City Gunners v Bathurst '75	2-1	0-0	0-0
Fairfield Bulls v Dulwich Hill	3-1	4-0	2-2
Belmore Hercules v Hills United	1-1	1-4	4-0

DIVISION TWO

	1st	U/21	U/18
Concord Juniors v Alexandria Warr	0-1	0-1	N/A
Greystanes v Uni of NSW	3-0	4-1	2-0
AC United v Granville Greenisland	5-2	2-0	8-1
Sydney District v Concord Juniors	2-1	0-3	6-0
Prairiewood United v Liverpool City	1-5	1-1	2-2
Trasandinos v Parramatta City	2-3	2-1	1-3
Alexandria Warriors v Hurstville	2-1	0-2	1-0

DIVISION THREE FINAL SERIES

	1st	2nd
Hawkesbury City v Moorebank Sports	2-1	1-2
Sporting SCC v Earlwood Hermes	5-1	1-1

MAJOR SEMI FINAL

Gladesville United v Moorebank Sports	1-5
Gladesville United v Glebe Wanderers	0-1

MINOR SEMI FINAL

Glebe Wanderers v Prospect United	1-1
Moorebank Sports v Colo Colo	5-4pen 2-1

DIVISION FOUR FINAL SERIES

	1st	2nd
Lithgow Workmen v Balmain	1-1	0-1

MAJOR SEMI FINAL

Arncliffe Scots v Fraser Park	3-2
Fraser Park v Marrickville	2-3

MAJOR SEMI FINAL

Sydney University v Springwood	1-3
Arncliffe Scots v Springwood	0-2

DIVISION FIVE FINAL SERIES

	1st	2nd
Camden v Mascot Kings	1-2	1-1
Camden v Maroubra United	(2-3pen)	

DIVISION SIX FINAL SERIES

	1st	2nd
Queens Park v BlacktownPremier	1-2	extra-time
Blacktown Premier v NSW Police	4-2	

WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUE

	1st	2nd
Sydney Cosmos v Marconi	1-2	0-0
UWS Macarthur v Marconi	(pen 3-1)	

WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUE

	1st	2nd
Moorebank 1 v Illawarra Lions	7-0	
St George Association v Bathurst	0-1	

EAGLES TO MEET BUDS

BY BOB BROOKS

The NSW Super League Grand Final takes place on Sunday at Marconi Stadium. First Grade is scheduled to kick off at 3pm.

The Women's First Division Grand Final precedes the Men's top game.

Action starts from 9am with Women's Reserve Grade followed by Super League Under 21 Men's from 11am.

In this year's controversial Super League format, Adamstown Rosebud won through by just one point over Sutherland, in the first half of the competition.

Sutherland in fact were unbeaten but failed to turn any of their six drawn games into wins. The Buds either won or lost being held to a draw only once.

Adamstown predictably had problems of motivation in the second half and at one stage looked in danger of finishing last in the second half.

The two winners of each half received \$10,000 as their reward. They then battle in the Grand Final for the trophy and a further \$20,000.

Parramatta Eagles, who lost their National League place in 1995, were always leading in the second half.

However they appeared to be staggering towards the end as they struggled to overcome Blacktown City and then were held to a scoreless draw, at home, by Rockdale City Suns.

Parramatta came back with a bang against Sutherland Shire Sharks in the final game of round 2 on Sunday.

The Sharks were their only challengers for top spot but home ground advantage wasn't enough to see Sutherland through.

It will be interesting to see if Adamstown Rosebud can lift themselves to make the Grand Final a competitive contrast or if Parramatta Eagles overwhelm them and sweep to the prize money.

Parramatta Eagles will also contest the Under 21 Grand Final against Leichhardt Tigers.



Dale Robertson (Top) Adamstown Rosebud, Tom Haythorwaite (Below) Parramatta Eagles: Will be on opposite sides in Sunday's Grand Final.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

SUPER LEAGUE

GRAND FINAL

SUNDAY AUGUST 25

MARCONI STADIUM, 3PM

ADAMSTOWN ROSEBUD

v

PARRAMATTA EAGLES

Preceded by

WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUE

GRAND FINAL

NORTHERN NSW ITC v

MARCONI FAIRFIELD

KICK-OFF 1PM

11am - S.L. Under 21 G.F. - Leichhardt Tigers v Parramatta 9am - W.S.L. Second Grade G.F. - Sydney Cosmos v UWS Macarthur

SOCCER NSW INFORMATION SERVICE

0055 22885

Max. call cost 75c/min. — IDS (Higher rate applies with mobile and public phones)

SUPER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Parramatta Eagles	13	8	5	0	19	7	29
Sutherland Sharks	13	7	4	2	21	12	25
St George Saints	13	7	3	3	26	14	24
Illawarra Lions	13	7	2	4	25	24	23
Bankstown City	13	6	3	4	25	24	21
Canterbury Berries	13	5	4	4	14	15	19
Bonnyrigg WE	13	5	2	6	21	22	17
Leichhardt Tigers	13	4	5	4	19	22	17
Rockdale City Sun	13	3	5	5	18	18	14
Warringah Dolphin	13	3	4	6	14	18	13
Macarthur Rams	13	4	1	8	11	15	13
Blacktown City	13	3	3	7	19	20	12
Adamstown R'bud	13	3	3	7	16	26	12
Central Coast	13	2	4	7	12	23	10

UNDER 21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Parramatta Eagles	13	11	1	1	41	12	34
Sutherland Sharks	13	9	2	2	29	6	29
Macarthur Rams	13	9	2	2	26	11	29
St George Saints	13	8	2	3	33	9	26
Blacktown City	13	8	2	3	29	15	26
Bonnyrigg WE	13	6	3	4	20	17	21
Adamstown R'bud	13	6	0	7	26	27	18
Leichhardt Tigers	13	5	2	6	15	19	17
Warringah Dolphins	13	4	3	6	18	20	15
Canterbury Berries	13	4	2	7	31	35	14
Bankstown City	13	3	2	8	17	35	11
Rockdale City Sun	13	2	1	10	17	33	7
Central Coast	13	1	4	8	11	28	7
Illawarra Lions	13	1	2	10	12	57	5

FEDERATION DIVISION ONE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sydney Cosmos	24	14	7	3	49	18	49
Ryde City	24	12	8	4	46	20	44
Belmore Hercules	24	11	9	4	56	31	42
Bathurst '75	24	11	8	5	38	25	41
Hills United	24	11	6	7	43	31	39
Auburn United	24	11	6	7	59	59	39
Penrith Panthers	24	9	6	9	47	46	33
West Wanderers	24	8	5	11	38	49	29
Stanmore Hawks	24	7	6	11	35	39	27
Sthn Minotaurs	24	7	6	11	32	45	27
Fairfield Bulls	24	6	5	13	38	45	23
Mt Pritchard	24	5	7	12	28	42	22
Dulwich Hill	24	6	4	14	25	47	22
Mt Druitt Town	24	5	7	12	29	66	22

FEDERATION DIVISION TWO FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Greystanes	22	13	5	4	44	20	44
Sydney District	22	12	6	4	34	24	42
Hurstville	22	12	5	5	43	24	41
Alexandria Warrior	22	11	6	5	46	28	39
Concord Juniors	22	11	5	6	51	34	38
Parramatta City	22	9	5	8	41	31	32
Trasandinos	22	8	5	9	27	37	29
AC United	22	6	8	8	26	30	26
Uni-of NSW	22	4	11	7	35	31	23
Liverpool City	22	6	5	11	38	39	23
Prairiewood	22	3	6	13	17	46	15
Granville G/Island	22	2	3	17	24	92	9



Australian & British
SOCCER WEEKLY

GIANNI VIALI





Hong Myung-bo
POSCO Atoms &
South Korea



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Chemist,
Cheltenham;
Victoria Avenue
Pharmacy, Albert
Park
Queensland -
Flinders Mall
Amcal, Townsville;
Ingham Plaza
Pharmacy,
Ingham; Ken Hart
Amcal, Emerald,
Nathan Plaza
Amcal, Aitkenvale;
Rothnies
Pharmacy,
Innisfail; Town
Pharmacy,
Toombul.
ACT - Naders
Pharmacy,
Manuka
Tasmania -
Summer Hill &
Olde Tudor
Pharmacy,
Summer Hill

WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal	2	West Ham	0
Blackburn	0	Tottenham	2
Coventry	0	Nottingham Forest	3
Derby	3	Leeds	3
Everton	2	Newcastle	0
Middlesbrough	3	Liverpool	3
Sheffield Wednesday	2	Aston Villa	1
Sunderland	0	Leicester	0
Wimbledon	0	Manchester United	3
Southampton	0	Chelsea	0

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Manchester City	1	Ipswich	0
Bradford	3	Portsmouth	1
Grimsby	1	Wolverhampton	3
Huddersfield	2	Charlton	0
Norwich	2	Swindon	0
Oldham	1	Stoke	2
Port Vale	1	Bolton	1
QPR	2	Oxford	1
Reading	1	Sheffield United	0
Southend	1	Tranmere	1
West Bromwich	1	Barnsley	2
Birmingham	1	Crystal Palace	0

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

Blackpool	0	Chesterfield	1
Bournemouth	1	Watford	2
Bristol Rovers	1	Peterborough	0
Bury	1	Brentford	1
Crewe	1	Stockport	0
Gillingham	3	Bristol City	2
Luton	1	Burnley	2
Millwall	1	Wrexham	1
Notts County	2	Preston	1
Plymouth	2	York	1
Walsall	1	Rotherham	1
Shrewsbury	1	Wycombe	1

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

Brighton	2	Chester	1
Cambridge United	1	Barnet	0
Colchester	0	Hartlepool	2
Doncaster	0	Carlisle	1
Fulham	1	Hereford	0
Hull	3	Darlington	2
Leyton Orient	0	Scunthorpe	1
Mansfield	0	Exeter	1
Scarborough	0	Cardiff	0
Swansea	2	Rochdale	1
Torquay	2	Lincoln	1
Wigan	2	Northampton	1

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

Celtic	4	Raith	1
Dundee United	0	Hibernian	1
Dunfermline	2	Rangers	5
Hearts	3	Kilmarnock	2
Motherwell	2	Aberdeen	2

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

East Fife	0	St Mirren	4
Greenock Morton	3	Clydebank	0
Partick	0	Dundee	0
St Johnstone	0	Falkirk	0
Stirling	0	Airdrieonians	1

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

Ayr	1	Hamilton	1
Clyde	2	Berwick	1
Dumbarton	1	Stranraer	1
Livingston	3	Queen of South	1
Stenhousemuir	0	Brechin	0

SCOTTISH DIVISION THREE

Albion	2	Forfar	0
Arbroath	3	Ross County	1
Inverness Thistle	1	Cowdenbeath	3
Montrose	1	Alloa	2
Queen's Park	3	East Stirling	3

BELARUS PREMIER

— August 13 —

Dinamo Minsk	2	Shakhtyor Soligorsk	0
MPKC Mozyr	1	Obuvshchik Lida	0
N-D Novopolotsk	1	Loko-96 Vitebsk	1
Molodechno	4	Torpedo Minsk	1
Dinamo-93 Minsk	3	Torpedo Mogilyov	0
Dnepr Mogilyov	3	Neman Grodno	0
Belshyna Bobruisk	7	Vedrich Rechitsa	0
Ataka-Aura Minsk	1	Dinamo Brest	2

TABLE

MPKC	16	13	1	2	37	10	40
Dinamo Minsk	16	12	3	1	46	12	39
Belshina	16	10	2	4	35	17	32
Ataka-Aura	14	10	1	2	19	13	31
Dinamo-93	15	8	4	3	21	10	28
Lokomotiv-96	16	6	7	3	21	12	25
Naftan-Devon	15	7	3	5	23	25	24
Molodechno	16	6	4	6	24	17	22
Dnepr	16	6	3	7	17	18	21
Dinamo Brest	16	4	7	5	24	19	19
Neman	16	4	4	8	15	31	16
Torpedo Minsk	16	4	3	9	15	33	15
Shakhtyor	15	3	4	8	10	27	13
Obuvshchik	15	2	4	9	12	24	10
Torpedo Mogilyov	16	2	3	11	17	41	9
Vedrich	16	1	3	12	7	31	6

SCOTLAND LEAGUE CUP

SECOND ROUND

— August 13 —

Airdrieonians	3	Raith	2
(after extra time. 90 mins: 2-2)			
Brechin	0	Hibernian	2
Dundee	2	Dumbarton	1
East Fife	1	St Johnstone	5
Falkirk	2	Albion	3
Greenock Morton	1	Hamilton	1
(after extra time. 90 mins: 1-1. Greenock won 4-3 on penalties)			
Kilmarnock	0	Ayr	1
Motherwell	0	Alloa	0
(after extra time. Alloa won 4-2 on penalties)			
Partick	3	Forfar	0
Queen's Park	0	Aberdeen	2
St Mirren	4	Berwick	0
Stirling	1	Dundee United	2
Clyde	1	Celtic	3
Clydebank	0	Rangers	3
Hearts	1	Stenhousemuir	1
(after extra time. 90 mins: 1-1. Hearts won 5-4 on penalties)			
Stranraer	1	Dunfermline	2

CZECH REPUBLIC FIRST DIVISION

FIRST ROUND

— August 13 —

FK Jablonec	2	SK Hradec Kralove	0
Petra Dmovice	4	FC Karvina	0
Slovan Liberec	1	Sigma Olomouc	1
Viktoria Plzen	1	FK Teplice	1
FC Bohemians	1	SK Ceske B'jovice	1
Banik Ostrava	3	Viktoria Zizkov	0
SK Slavia Prague	1	Kaucuk Opava	1
Boby Brno	2	AC Sparta Prague	1

BRAZILIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

— August 15 —

Juventude	1	Bahia	0
Palmeiras	0	Internacional	0
Parana	0	Goiias	0
Vasco da Gama	1	Sport Recife	2
Vitoria	1	Coritiba	0

POLAND FIRST DIVISION

— August 11 —

Gornik Zagrze	0	Rakow Czestochowa	1
LKS Lodz	1	Amica Wronki	2
Stomil Olsztyn	1	GKS Katowice	1
GKS Belchatow	2	Widzew Lodz	0
Sokol Tychy	1	Polonia Warszawa	2
Odra Wroclaw	1	Lech Poznan	2
Hutnik Krakow	0	Slask Wroclaw	0
Zaglebie Lubin	0	Legia Warszawa	1
Ruch Chorzow	1	Wislaw Krakow	1

TABLE

Amica Wronki	4	4	0	0	8	4	1
Hutnik Krakow	4	3	0	1	6	2	
Lech Poznan	4	3	0	1	7	4	
Legia Warszawa	4	3	0	1	7	5	
GKS Katowice	4	2	2	0	8	6	
Polonia Warszawa	4	2	1	1	5	5	
Odra Wodzislaw	4	2	0	2	7	6	
Slask Wrocław	4	2	0	2	4	3	
Sokol Tychy	4	2	0	2	6	6	
Widzew Lodz	4	1	2	1	5	3	
Wislaw Kraków	4	1	2	1	2	3	
Ruch Chorzow	4	1	1	2	5	7	
Stomil Olsztyn	4	1	1	2	4	7	
Gornik Zabrze	4	1	0	3	4	6	

GKS Belchatow	4	1	0	3	3	5	3
Rakow Czestochowa	4	1	0	3	3	5	3
Zaglebie Lubin	4	0	2	2	6	8	2
LKS Lodz	4	0	1	3	2	7	1

AUSTRIA FIRST DIVISION

— August 18 —

Austria Vienna	1	Admira/Wacker	0
FC Linz	0	SV Ried	4
FC Tirol Innsbruck	3	GAK	0
SV Salzburg	1	Linzer ASK	1
Sturm Graz	0	Rapid Vienna	0

TABLE

Austria Vienna	5	4	1	0	7	3	13
FC Tirol Innsbruck	5	3	2	0	10	4	11
SV Salzburg	5	3	2	0	4	1	11
Sturm Graz	5	1	3	1	5	5	6
GAK	5	1	2	2	6	8	5
SV Ried	5	1	1	3	6	5	4
Rapid Wien	4	0	4	0	3	3	4
Admira/Wacker	5	0	3	2	5	7	3
Linzer ASK	4	0	3	1	3	5	3
FC Linz	5	0	1	4	1	9	1

SWEDEN FIRST DIVISION

— August 11 —

AIK	6	Göteborg	0
Halmstad	2	Umea	1
Helsingborg	1	Trelleborg	2
Norrköping	3	Oster	1
Oddevold	1	Degerfors	1
Orebro	3	Djurgarden	0
Orgryte	0	Malmö	0

TABLE

Gothenburg	15	8	4	3	26	13	28
Helsingborg	15	8	4	3	24	14	28
Halmstad	15	8	4	3	21	17	28
orgryte	15	7	4	4	19	10	25
Malmö	15	6	6	3	14	10	24
Norrköping	15	5	6	4	18	13	21
AIK	15	6	3	6	19	15	21
Oster	15	6	3	6	17	21	21
Degerfors	15	5	5	5	18	25	20
Orebro	15	5	2	8	16	19	17
Trelleborg	15	4	3	8	18	25	15
Djurgarden	15	4	2	9	11	21	14
Oddevold	15	3	4	8	11	20	13
Umea	15	3	4	8	15	26	13

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

— August 16 —

Auxerre	2	Lille	0
Bastia	1	Guingamp	0
Metz	1	Bordeaux	1
Cannes	1	Nantes	1
Le Havre	1	Marseille	1
Lens	3	Nancy	1
Lyon	2	Strasbourg	0
Paris St Germain	2	Caen	0
Rennes	3	Nice	1
Monaco	1	Montpellier	1

TABLE

Lens	2	2	0	0	5	1
Auxerre	2	2	0	0	3	0
Bastia	2	2	0	0	3	0
Paris St Germain	2	2	0	0	3	0
Marseille	2	1	1	0	4	2
Monaco	2	1	1	0	4	2
Cannes	2	1	1	0	3	2
Bordeaux	2	1	1	0	2	1
Lyon	2	1	0	1	3	3
Rennes	2	1	0	1	3	3
Lille	2	1	0	1	1	2
Montpellier	2	0	2	0	1	1
Nantes	2	0	1	1	2	4
Le Havre	2	0	1	1	1	2
Metz	2	0	1	1	1	2
Guingamp	2	0	1	1	0	1
Nancy	2	0	0	2	2	5
Nice	2	0	0	2	1	4
Strasbourg	2	0	0	2	0	3
Caen	2	0	0	2	0	4

GERMANY BUNDESLIGA

— August 17 —

Bochum	1	Duisburg	0
Stuttgart	4	Schalke	0
Hansa Rostock	2	Karlsruhe	2
Freiburg	3	Werder Bremen	2
Munich 1860	2	Hamburg	1

WORLD STORIES

Hat-tricks to Campbell & Ravenelli

Eric Cantona, the key figure in Manchester United's league and cup double triumph in May, launched their new season with a typical goal in the 3-0 win over Wimbledon on Saturday.

The gifted Frenchman latched on to a cross from Nicky Butt midway through the first half and drove a fierce half volley beyond goalkeeper Neil Sullivan.

United's class brought further goals from Dennis Irwin and David Beckham in the second half.

While United made a flying start to the new campaign, Newcastle, parading the world's costliest player in Alan Shearer, had a nightmare day, losing 2-0 at Goodison Park, Everton.

Shearer, who cost big spenders Newcastle \$A30million to recruit from Blackburn, had a headed goal disallowed in the first half and later struck the bar with another header.

But Newcastle can take heart from the fact that the champions lost their opening league game last season, 3-1 to Aston Villa.

Fabrizio Ravanelli, one of several big-name foreigners plying trade in the premier league this season, scored a hat-trick for Middlesbrough in a 3-3 home draw with Liverpool.

Kevin Campbell was another hat-trick man. He struck three times in the opening 47 minutes in Nottingham Forest's 3-0 win at Coventry.

Cantona, playing on the ground where his kung-fu attack on a Crystal Palace fan 18 months ago cost him a lengthy ban, was at the heart of much of United's inventive build-up.

But it was Beckham who earned the biggest roar from the United fans with a superb



Eric Cantona: Scored the last goal of last season and the first of this one.

goal in the final minute.

Spotting Sullivan off his line, he lobbed the despairing Wimbledon goalkeeper from the halfway line.

Irwin had similarly embarrassed Sullivan with a shot from an acute angle in the 57th minute.

Newcastle, routed 4-0 by United in the Charity Shield last week, must quickly put their house in order if they are to be serious challengers for a championship they have not won since 1927.

Hard though Shearer worked to mark his debut with a goal, he was outshone by Everton's Scotland international striker Duncan Ferguson.

His sheer physical presence created both goals, a 29th minute David Unsworth penalty and a 40th minute strike by Gary Speed.

Middlesbrough made an immediate return on the \$A14million they paid Juventus for Ravanelli.

He cancelled out a Stig Bjornebye fourth minute strike with a 26th minute penalty and scored again 10 minutes later after John Barnes had restored Liverpool's lead.

A Robbie Fowler goal midway through the second half threatened to spoil Ravanelli's day but the never-say-die Italian came up

trumps again nine minutes from time.

Campbell, scorer of eight goals in pre-season friendlies, was far too much of a handful for a leaden-footed Coventry defence.

He put Forest ahead after 13 minutes, came close to scoring twice more before adding a second in the 36th minute and then sealed Coventry's fate with a third two minutes into the second half.

Chris Armstrong, scorer of 22 goals last season, came close to registering a hat-trick in Tottenham's 2-0 win at Blackburn.

After clinical strikes in the 33rd and 67th minutes, he watched his curling left-footer clip the bar in the dying minutes.

Arsenal, who sacked manager Bruce Rioch a few days before the start of the season, also won 2-0.

John Hartson gave them the lead against West Ham in the 27th minute. Dutch international Dennis Bergkamp added the second from the penalty spot after 40 minutes.

Promoted Derby, 2-0 down at home to Leeds after 77 minutes, stormed back to draw 3-3, Dean Sturridge earning them a point with a last-minute goal.

McCoist hits hat-trick

Rangers' veteran striker Ally McCoist took his tally of goals to five in four games this season with a second half hat-trick in the 5-2 Scottish premier division win over Dunfermline on Saturday.

Rangers, who carry a 3-1 lead into the second leg of their European Cup qualifying round second leg away to Russian side Alania Vladikavkas tomorrow, carried just too much firepower for promoted Dunfermline.

McCoist's goals came in the 46th, a penalty, 73rd and 85th minutes.

Dutchman Peter Van Vossen doubled his season's tally with goals in the 17th and 88th

minutes.

Celtic, the side most likely to challenge Rangers's lengthy monopoly of the championship, also enjoyed an emphatic 4-1 winover Raith.

Two strikes by Andreas Thom were sandwiched between goals by Pierre Van Hooydonk and substitute Simon Donnelly.

Dundee United had skipper David Bowman sent off after just three minutes for elbowing Hibernian's Keith Wright and his side paid for his indiscretion by losing at home.

Kevin McAllister headed the only goal in the 29th minute.

Bayern forced to battle hard

Two early goals by Bayer Leverkusen set them up for a 4-2 victory over champions Borussia Dortmund in their opening Bundesliga match on the weekend.

Leverkusen were 2-0 up after the first seven minutes through goals by Paulo Sergio and Ulf Kirsten.

Dortmund, hit by injuries to German internationals Matthias Sammer, Steffen Freund and Karl-Heinz Riedle as well as newcomers Paulo Sousa and Rene Schneider, hit back before the interval to level the scores.

Scottish newcomer Paul Lambert scored from a magnificent cross from Stephane Chapuisat and five minutes later Ghanian Ibrahim Tanko, making his first appearance since October, added the second.

But Holger Fach restored Leverkusen's lead shortly after the interval and nine minutes from the end Rene Rydlewicz took advantage of Dortmund's shaky defence to add the fourth.

Championship favourites Bayern Munich made a good start to their season last Friday when they beat St Pauli 2-1 at home.

Keane out for month

Roy Keane will miss the first month of Manchester United's title defence and will undergo surgery on his knee, manager Alex Ferguson revealed on the weekend.

The combative midfielder, who will also miss the Republic of Ireland's World Cup qualifier against Liechtenstein, starred in United's 3-0 win at Wimbledon on the opening day of the season.

But Ferguson later said that Keane will be going into hospital on Tuesday to have a troublesome knee "cleaned up" in an operation that could put him out for a month or more.

"He goes into hospital for the operation and we are hoping that he will be only out for about three weeks," said Ferguson.

"He's been carrying the injury since the Umbro Cup tournament in Nottingham. "It's a loss, but hopefully we will get him back in time for the Champions' League."

Ferguson informed Irish manager Mick McCarthy, who has only just been reconciled

with Keane after a summer bust-up. McCarthy watched Keane in action and said: "It's a major blow to lose any player with a talent like Roy's."

"He'll be just as disappointed, too, because he really wanted to play in this one."



HAIR TRIM SEALS DEAL

An Argentine soccer player who was told he had to get a haircut before he could join southern Italian Serie C club Avellino has agreed to do so.

Long-haired striker Leonardo Ricatti said he would front the barber if he was offered a contract first.

Ricatti was told by club president Antonio Sibilia his hair was too long and he had to get it cut before terms of a deal could be discussed.

Sibilia, who said there was no room for long-haired people at Avellino, recommended two barbers in the nearby town of Mercogliano and said he would pay the bill.

Club sources said today Ricatti had agreed to visit - as soon as the southern club agreed to sign him.

Sibilia was reported to favour the idea.



Robert Jarni: Arsenal and Croatia.



Slaven Bilic: West Ham and Croatia.

Croatian Corner

By John Viskovich

➤ N.K. Croatia Zagreb have a new club emblem and so far everyone has given it the thumbs up especially the Bad Blue Boys (Dinamo Fan Club). The new emblem features three old emblems i.e. H.A.S.K., a 'C' symbol for Croatia. The hard core fans would like the club to change the name to Dinamo Zagreb but the change in the badge has satisfied many and is looked upon as a step in the right direction.

➤ French Club Nantes have signed one of the hottest properties in Croatian football, Davor Vugrinec. The 22 year old Varkeks striker had also been approached by Barcelona and Bayern Munich but chose Nantes as there he was guaranteed a 1st team spot. Nantes have given Varkeks a truck load of money in order to break Vugrinec's contract.

COACH MOVEMENT IN CROATIAN LEAGUE:

CLUB	SEASON 1995/96	1996/97
OSIJEK	Matkovic, Cacic, Katalinic	Goran Popovic
VARTEKS	Bonacic	Predrag Stilinovic
CROATIA	Kranjcar	Otto Baric
HAJDUK	Katalinic, Jozic	Ivan Buljan
ZAGREB	Loncacovic, Matkovic	Ivica Matkovic
SEGESTA	Bracun, Ivankovic, Vidovic	Ivica Vidovic
HRVATSKI		
DRAGOVLJAC	Magic, Tucak	Ivo Susak
RIJEKA	Janioljak, Bureta, Skoblar, Gracan	Luka Bonacic
SIBENIK	Sangulin, Baljo, Magic	Vinko Begovic
MLADOST 127	Vukusic	Rajko Magic

Interesting Facts...

Player	Club	D.O.B.	Height	Weight	Place of Birth
DRAZEN LADIC	Croatia Zagreb	1.1.63	1.85m	83kg	Cakovec, Slavonia
DUBRAVKO PAVLICIC	Hercules	28.11.67	1.86m	82kg	Zagreb, Slavonia
ROBERT JARNI	Arsenal	26.10.68	1.80m	75kg	Cakovec, Slavonia
IGOR STIMAC	Derby County	6.9.67	1.86m	82kg	Metkovic, Dalmatia
SLAVEN BILIC	West Ham	11.9.68	1.88m	84kg	Split, Dalmatia
NIKOLA JERKAN	Nottingham Forest	8.12.64	1.89m	82kg	Split, Dalmatia
DAVOR SUKER	Real Madrid	1.1.68	1.83m	78kg	Dsijek, Slavonia
ROBERT PROSINECKI	Barcelona	12.1.69	1.82m	76kg	Schwenningen, (Germany)
ALEN BOKSIC	Juventus	21.1.70	1.87m	81kg	Makarska, Dalmatia
GORAN VLAOVIC	Valencia	7.8.72	1.78m	75kg	Nova Gradiska, Slavonia
MARIO STANIC	Fiorentina	10.4.72	1.85m	79kg	Sarajevo, Herceg Bosna
ALIOSHA ASANOVIC	Derby County	14.12.65	1.86m	82kg	Split, Dalmatia
MLADEN MLADENOVIC	Gamba Osaka	13.9.64	1.78m	75kg	Rijeka, Dalmatia
ZVONIMIR BOBAN	Milan	8.10.68	1.83m	79kg	Imotski, Dalmatia
ZVONIMIR SOLDO	Stuttgart	2.11.67	1.89m	85kg	Zagreb, Slavonia
NIKOLA JURCEVIC	Freiburg	14.9.66	1.82m	77kg	Zagreb, Slavonia



Victorian Ladders



PREMIER LEAGUE LADDER

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Altona Gate	26	18	2	6	58	25	56
Heidelberg Utd	24	16	5	5	63	29	53
Sunshine GX	26	16	4	6	38	32	52
Bentleigh Green	24	15	4	7	48	34	49
Green Gully	24	12	10	4	51	30	46
Thomastown Zeb	24	15	7	6	46	53	46
Port Melbourne	24	11	9	6	59	42	42
Bulleen	24	8	9	9	33	40	33
North Geelong	24	8	3	13	28	44	29
Albion	24	5	6	15	26	43	21
St Albans	24	5	6	15	31	49	21
Box Hill Inter	24	5	6	15	27	34	21
Fawkner	26	4	7	15	24	49	19
Springvale City	26	3	6	17	31	59	15

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Heidelberg Utd	16	20	0	6	78	42	60
Port Melbourne	26	15	6	5	58	30	51
Thomastown	25	15	5	5	58	24	50
Bulleen	24	15	2	7	59	30	47
Sunshine G.X.	25	11	9	5	47	38	42
Bentleigh Green	25	13	3	9	36	52	42
Green Gully	26	10	5	11	48	41	35
Altona Gate	26	9	4	13	45	56	31
Fawkner	25	8	6	11	36	52	30
Springvale City	26	7	7	12	53	54	28
Box Hill Inter	24	7	6	11	38	47	27
St Albans	26	6	8	12	30	44	26
Albion	26	7	2	17	43	83	23
North Geelong	24	7	3	21	43	80	8

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sp White Eagles	21	15	3	3	46	20	48
Preston Lions	21	12	6	3	34	15	42
Richmond	21	10	9	2	41	27	39
West Suburbs	22	11	5	6	29	21	38
Kings City	21	8	10	3	28	22	34
Lalor Utd	22	9	5	8	53	39	32
C'don City Dons	22	8	6	8	41	29	30
Moorabbin City	21	8	6	7	30	26	30
Werribee City	22	8	4	10	31	25	28
Westgate	22	7	6	9	37	42	27
Don'ster Rovers	22	6	8	8	28	32	26
Broadmeadows	21	5	2	14	22	36	17
Northcote City	20	3	6	11	17	34	15
Glen Eira City	22	1	2	18	12	51	5

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Preston	18	14	1	3	38	20	43
Werribee City	21	13	4	4	43	32	43
Moorabbin City	20	11	6	3	50	22	39
Richmond	18	12	3	3	37	19	39
Don'ster Rovers	22	12	3	7	46	31	39
Croydon City	21	11	2	8	45	33	35
Kings City	22	9	3	10	39	37	30
Lalor United	21	9	1	11	49	39	28
Sp White Eagles	19	8	1	10	47	41	25
Glen Eira City	22	7	2	14	32	58	23
West Suburbs	18	5	2	11	33	47	17
Northcote City	18	5	2	11	16	52	17
Westgate	20	5	0	15	20	54	15
Broadmeadows	18	2	2	14	18	48	8

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 2

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Westv	22	19	1	2	80	22	55
S Dande	22	13	4	5	52	29	43
Altona E	22	12	5	5	43	29	41
Altona City	21	10	3	8	37	22	33
Wav C	22	9	6	7	49	45	33
Ess Brun Royals	22	8	7	7	22	23	31
Franks Pines	22	7	8	7	30	30	29
Knox City	22	6	9	7	31	40	27
Each Rich	21	7	5	9	37	32	26
Regent Bulla	22	5	9	8	24	36	24
Bell Park	21	5	5	11	24	33	20
Oakl	21	4	8	9	21	48	20

Nuna City	22	3	7	12	22	59	16
Mooroolb	20	3	3	14	25	49	12

RESERVE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Frankston Pines	20	15	3	2	49	15	48
Ess Brun Royals	22	12	4	6	55	28	40
Waverley City	21	13	1	7	61	34	40
Altona City	20	13	1	6	51	29	40
Westvale	22	12	5	5	46	36	38
Altona East	21	9	5	8	39	38	29
East Richmond	21	7	7	7	35	32	28
Knox City	22	7	6	9	38	41	27
Oakland	21	8	2	11	54	43	26
Mooroolbark	18	6	7	5	32	34	25
Regent Bulla	21	7	0	14	39	70	21
Nunawading City	21	4	3	13	41	50	18
Sth Dandenong	21	5	3	13	33	57	18
Bell Park	21	2	5	14	24	95	11

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 3

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Frankston	21	16	2	3	68	24	50
Ringwood City	20	12	5	3	56	18	41
Cranbourne	22	12	4	6	38	24	40
Sth Springvale	21	11	5	5	47	25	38
Dia Valley Utd	21	11	3	7	29	28	36
Fitzroy City	20	9	4	7	37	27	31
Sth Caulfield	22	10	3	9	40	39	30
Pascoe Vale	21	7	6	8	25	30	27
Melb City	22	6	7	9	34	37	25
Sth Werribee	21	6	6	9	38	41	24
Keilor Eagles	22	5	8	9	18	28	23
Banyule	22	4	7	11	27	48	19
Chelsea	22	4	6	12	31	77	18
Clifton Hill	21	1	4	16	14	56	7

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Cranbourne	22	17	3	2	92	19	54
Ringwood City	20	17	1	2	73	13	52
Keilor Eagles	21	15	4	2	60	20	49
Dia Valley Utd	21	11	3	7	55	37	36
Fitzroy City	21	10	5	6	55	43	35
Sth Springvale	19	10	3	6	49	25	33
Melb City	21	9	5	7	42	34	32
Frankston	20	9	4	7	74	39	31
Pascoe Vale	21	7	3	11	35	47	24
Sth Werribee	20	6	3	11	40	76	21
Banyule	21	5	3	13	43	72	18
Sth Caulfield	21	4	6	11	24	40	15
Chelsea	22	2	2	18	27	86	8
Clifton Hill	20	0	1	19	9	125	1

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 4

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Yarraville	21	14	4	3	47	22	46
Nth Coburg Utd	22	14	2	6	57	34	44
Geelong	22	12	7	3	46	29	43
Stonnington	22	13	3	6	48	29	42
Sun Heights	22	13	2	7	47	23	41
Lalor	21	9	4	8	39	32	31
Langwarrin	22	8	6	8	44	34	30
Sunbury Utd	22	7	7	8	26	30	28
Monbulk	21	6	8	7	22	26	26
Seaford Utd	22	7	4	11	30	41	25
Moreland City	22	7	3	12	30	41	24
Corio	22	5	4	13	23	49	19
Williamstown	22	4	6	12	26	45	18
Sandr City	21	2	2	17	16	66	8

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Langwarrin	22	17	2	3	75	26	53
Sun Heights	21	14	4	3	67	14	46
Sunbury Utd	22	14	3	5	33	21	45
Lalor	21	11	6	4	50	29	39
Stonnington	22	11	4	7	46	31	37
Seaford Utd	22	8	8	6	53	36	32
Nth Coburg Utd	20	10	2	8	56	53	32
Yarraville	19	8	6	5	44	29	30
Moreland City	21	8	2	11	37	38	26
Monbulk	20	5	5	10	21	40	20
Geelong	21	4	4	13	23	67	16

Corio	22	3	6	13	23	52	15
San'ham City	21	4	1	16	25	71	13
Williamstown	22	2	5	15	27	73	11

PROV LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Geel Rangers	20	14	3	3	56	21	45
Keysborough	19	14	1	4	38	14	43
Melton	20	11	6	3	36	17	39
Sth Wantirna	18	11	2	5	42	22	35
Sp'vale Condors	18	9	7	2	34	23	31
Nth Sunshine	18	8	3	7	32	27	27
Knox Park	19	8	3	8	36	32	27
Mitcham Utd	17	7	1	9	28	29	22
Old Scotch-Haw	19	6	3	10	27	23	21
Mornington	19	6	3	10	19	41	21
Doveton	19	5	5	9	22	31	20
Glenroy	20	4	5	11	26	39	17
Ballarat	19	4	3	12	14	39	15
Heidelberg City	19	2	1	16	12	64	7

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Knox Park	18	10	5	3	46	20	35
Mitcham Utd	16	10	3	3	48	27	35
Melton	20	10	3	7	34	23	33
Mornington	19	9	4	6	29	35	31
Glenroy	18	9	3	6	50	35	30
Ballarat	18	9	2	7	35	33	29
Nth Sunshine	18	8	3	7	28	31	27
Geel Rangers	20	7	5	8	39	41	26
Sp'vale Condors	17	8	3	6	43	31	24
Sth Wantirna	18	5	6	7	28	32	21
Keysborough	18	5	2	11	32	45	17
Old Scotch-Haw	18	3	6	9	35	45	15
Heidelberg City	17	3	6	8	20	44	15
Doveton	16	2	3	11	20	46	9

PROV LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

FIRSTS

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TACKLE DIABETES



STATE LEAGUE — ROUND 23 DIVISION ONE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24TH 1996

Northcote City	v	Western Suburbs
Moorabbin City	v	Glen Eira City
Doncaster Rovers	v	Kingston City
S'Vale Wht Eagles	v	Lalor Utd
Preston Lions	v	Croydon city
Richmond	v	Werribee city
Westgate	v	Br'meadows City

DIVISION TWO

Sth Dandenong	v	Oakland
Altona East	v	Waverley City
Altona City	v	East Richmond
Moorabark	v	Es'don Brunswick Royals
Westvale	v	Frankstown Pines
Regent Bulla	v	Nunawading City
Knox City	v	Bell Park

DIVISION THREE

Cranbourne	v	Frankston
Pascoe Vale	v	Fitzroy City
Sth Werribee	v	Diamond Valley Utd
Ringwood city	v	Sth Caulfield
Sth Springvale	v	Melbourne City
Banyule City	v	Keilor Eagles
Clifton Hill	v	Chelsea

DIVISION FOUR

Geelong	v	Williamstown
Langwarrin	v	Sunshine Heights
Nth Coburg Utd	v	Sunbury Utd
Seaford Utd	v	Sandringham City
Moreland City	v	Yarraville
Stonnington City	v	Lalor
Monbulk	v	Corio

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE — ROUND 21

DIVISION ONE

Melton	v	Geelong Rangers
S'vale Condors	v	Old Scotch/Hawt
Mitcham Utd	v	Nth Sunshine
Mornington	v	Doveton
Sth Wantima	v	Ballarat
Heidelberg City	v	Knox Park
Glenroy	v	Keysborough

DIVISION TWO

Endeavour Utd	v	Croxton
Meadow Park	v	Nth Glenroy
Brunswick City	v	Hoppers Crossing
Berwick City	v	Brandon Park
Lyndale Utd	v	Dandenong
South Yarra	v	Braeside Utd
Hampton Park Utd	v	East Nun Eagles

DIVISION THREE — METROPOLITAN ROUND 19

Elwood City	v	Uni Melb Blues
Melb Uni Rangers	v	Newb/Yallourn
T'stowe Eagles	v	Ashburton
Riversdale	v	Monash Uni
Ringwood rovers	v	Br'meadows Utd
Parkmore	v	Keilor Utd

SOUTH/EAST/CENTRAL SUNDAY, 25TH AUGUST

Thornbury	v	Wav. Wanderers
Endeavour Hills	v	Ivanhoe Utd
Flem Falcons	v	Cam. Gr. Old Boys
Noble Park	v	Collingwood City
Oakleigh Utd	v	East Kew
Nth Caulfield	v	Yarra Utd

NORTH/WEST

Upfield	v	West Preston
Mill Park	v	Whitilesea Utd
Sydenham Park	v	Darebin Utd
Sunshine Park	v	Diamond Valley
Northern Utd	v	Keon Park
Nth Reservoir	v	Latrobe Uni

BULLEEN 1 BOX HILL 1 BY D TUFFNELL

Alan Roodhouse turned villain into hero within the space of a minute in Box Hill's 1-1 draw with the Bulleen Lions on Sunday.

Roodhouse had a 78th minute penalty saved by Jeff Olver, but just a minute later, grabbed Inter an equaliser to save their place in the Premier League.

Inter could have been ahead earlier in the game after substitute Frank Chirico had hit a post with what seemed a perfectly struck shot.

Dale White gave the Lions a 66th minute lead after he ran on to a Frank Catalano through ball and slotted past Sean Keigh.

Then, staring relegation in the face, Inter earned a penalty when Robert Stojcevski brought down Steve Guscic inside the area.

Olver guessed correctly and palmed Roodhouse's effort away to safety.

Roodhouse's blushes were spared soon after when he hooked in Damien Guglielmi's low cross beyond Olver.

Lions: Olver, Valentic, Stojcevski, Tsiakos, White, Collina, Everetts, Catalano (Rudzki), Uliana, Barbieri, Bresciano.

Inter: Keogh, Pansino, Dal Ben, Sette, Roodhouse, Guscic, Frezzini (Chirico), Zilic (Tsakiris), Basias (Lennon), Marcen, Guglielmi.

Referee: Jim Markovski.
Votes: 3 — Valentic, 2 — Stojcevski, 1 — Guglielmi.

GREEN GULLY 7 SUNSHINE 1 BY JOHN RIGAS

Green Gully caused a sensation in the final round of the Premier League, storming to victory over rivals Sunshine Georgies 7-1, and in the process setting themselves up for a finals berth.

The odds were against Green Gully before the game as they had to rely on Altona to beat Thomastown, but the result went in Gully's favour.

Tony Neceski got the Cavaliers off to a dream when he made an impact on the scoreboard in the 20th minute with a long range strike.

Striker Vlad Babic added a second in the 31st minute, and then increased the lead when he added a third right on half-time.

Babic played provider in the 54th sending in a wonderful cross to Genovesi who easily put the ball past Steve Wardle then completed his hat-trick four minutes later with a volley.

Sunshine scored a consolation goal through

Chris Daglaras in the 67th minute. Neceski completed the scoring spree when he rounded Wardle seven minutes from time.

News isn't good for Sunshine going into the finals with Anthony Cassar missing as he was sent off.

Cavaliers: Vella, Spiteri, Cimino, Chetcuti, Waddell (Stojcevski), Scoble, Suric, Neceski, Genovesi, Stafrace, Babic (Maglovski).

Georgies: Wardle, Makris, Cassar (sent off), Dragicevic (De La Plaza), Field, Aretis, Nilo, Markovski, Tsirtsakis (Spiteri), De Bono, Vassallo (Daglaras).

Referee: John Fraser.
Votes: 3 — Babic, 2 — Neceski, 1 — Genovesi.

FAWKNER 2 ST ALBANS 2 BY NICK TZAHERIS

Fawkner, the VPL's longest serving continuous member was relegated to Division 1 on Sunday after being held to 2-2 draw by the surviving St Albans.

The Blues join Springvale on the way down while St Albans managed once again to preserve their Premier League status against the odds.

Fawkner players and supporters were left to lament the result and their inability to overcome the very determined Saints.

Veteran striker, Paul Lewis, continued his good form for the Saints netting a double with the first coming from close range after 21 minutes.

Fawkner responded minutes later with an Eric Vasiliadis penalty after Blues captain Tony Schipano was fouled in the area.

The second half mirrored the first with Lewis again nudging St Albans ahead before Vasiliadis converted a second penalty.

Unfortunately for Fawkner that wasn't enough.

Blues: Janssen, Vasiliadis, Tramontana, Schipano, Branov, Bothwell, Minichiello, Kuzman, Ferla, Stevanovic, Mihocic.

Saints: Vunderl, M. Colina (Milkulic), Magdic, Gagula, Razov, Jolic, Grganovic, Pelja, Movric, Pondeljag, Lewis.

Referee: Colin Ellis.
Votes: 3 — Razov (Saints), 2 — Grganovic (Saints), 1 — Lewis (Saints).

SPRINGVALE 3 PT MELBOURNE 3 BY GEORGE KOUKERIS

In the last round for 1996 premiership season, the game between Springvale City and Port Melbourne was of low key status.

Springvale already

preparing themselves for relegation to the first division were determined to end on a good note.

In the 15th minute, Alex Efstathiou foiled Springvale's defenders to strike a good shot and convert for the Sharks.

David Grella's header in the 26th minute restored Springvale's hopes. The equaliser came about from a superb cross into the six yard box to allow Grella the credit of goalscorer.

Springvale were on the move in the 37th minute, Eddie Carlos broke from centre with the ball to counter attack which resulted in Springvale's second.

In the 43rd minute Bill Mitroulas scored Port's second to allow pressure comfort just before the interval.

Late in the second — half Mitroulas scored Port's third for the day.

The goal was loudly disputed by the Vales, who were certain the play was offside.

The saviour for the Vales was Grella. In the 89th minute, determination would best describe the effort put in by the Springvale players as all 10 converged into the penalty box to penetrate, however it came from the right foot of Grella to end the contest at 3-3.

Vales: Christov, Lettieri, Carlos (Gomez), De La Plaza, Rizzi, Dell' Aquilia (Crcurie), Campagna, D. Grella, Lancaster, P. Grella, R. Vargas.

Sharks: Kourtis, Lantiniopoulos, Kyriakopoulos, Bell, Hastie, Duric, Efstathiou, Gotis (Karakyriakos), Palamaras, Mitroulas, Palatsides (Daglis).

Referee: Jureger Annuss.
Votes: 3 — D. Grella, 2 — Efstathiou, 1 — De La Plaza.

ALTONA 2 THOMASTOWN 0 BY Z MILENKOVSKI

A solid 2-0 win by reigning champions Altona Magic over Thomastown Zebras was enough to win the minor premiership and to send the Zebras out of the finals action.

The convincing win leaves Altona with a weeks rest going into the start of next weeks finals series and dumps the Zebras out of the top five despite being there all season.

The first goal came in the 17th minute when a timely pass from Henry Velkovski found Nick Georgopoulos to crack home a 20 yard strike.

Altona went further ahead thanks to a controversial penalty when Sash Becvinovski was fouled in the area. Becvinovski stepped up to convert the spot kick himself.

Magic: McGrath, Atanasovski, Tasevski, Runje, Micevski, Markovski, Rusmir, Georgopoulos (Petrevski), Becvinovski, Velkovski, Cvetkovski (Petrov).

Zebras: Raponi, Angelovski, Karic, Della Rocca (Banini), Tricarico, Zinni, Mazzini, Iacovitti, Gnjdic (Craciun), Boschini (Bichler), Ngata.

Referee: Vince Celestino.
Votes: 3 — Markovski, 2 — Rusmir, 1 — Atanasovski.

PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 26 RESULTS

Bulleen Lions 1 (D Iorio) - Sunshine Georgies 1 (Field) - (postponed round 24 game).

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\$40

Tickets available from the Victorian Soccer Federation and all member clubs.

LEADING GOALSCORERS

25 Despotovski (Heidelberg)
20 Becvinovski (Altona)
15 Zinni (Thomastown)
13 Nilo (Sunshine)

PASCOE VALE SPORTS SCENE TOP VOTES

25 — Alagiozidis (Bentleigh)
20 — Ngata (Thomastown)
Cassar (Sunshine)
— Rusmir (Altona)
19 — Stojcevski (Bulleen)
18 — Cosic (North Geelong)
17 — Bell (Port Melbourne)
Becvinovski (Altona)

ALBION 3

NTH GEELONG 1 BY LUKE BUTTIGIEG

Albion Redsox survived to fight another Premier League season with a crushing 3-1 win over North Geelong.

With their chances in their own hands, Albion opened the scoring after 38 minutes, Carlos Retre heading home through a congested penalty area.

Franc Bot equalised for the Warriors six minutes into the second half, celebrating the goal with a somersault.

Ahmet Gupinar stepped up with two brilliant goals. Gupinar's 15 metre lobbed header gave 'keeper Joey Didulica no chance in the 76th minute.

Gupinar scored again five minutes later scissor kicking the ball past Didulica, bringing three cheers from Redsox fans in the rooms after the game.

Redsox: Brian, Gupinar, Grimaud, Osman, Lucchesi (Geri), Wilson, Donnelly, Carter (Patsaman), Retre (Scrobogna), McMinimee, Sevin.

Warriors: Joey Didulica, Cosic, Medved, O'Sullivan, McAuliffe, Bot, Dimovski, Sobovski (Tillinger), Panetta (Moore), Trupkovic, Rajher (Dulic).

Referee: Hossein Mohammadi.
Votes: 3 — Carter, 2 — Gupinar, 1 — Wilson.

HEIDELBERG 5 BENTLEIGH 1 BY N GIANNAKOPOULOS

Heidelberg United clinched

the double chance after a convincing 5-1 thrashing of Bentleigh Greens at the Olympic Village on Sunday.

Alan Scott opened the scoring in the 19th minute for the home team with a left foot shot outside the box into the top corner.

Moments later Mario Crivari equalised for the visitors when he latched onto a through ball and although his initial shot was blocked by Glenn Clarke he made no mistake with the rebound.

The Bergers regained the lead when an Andy Vlahos left foot shot into the bottom right hand corner gave Bentleigh 'keeper Chris Jones no chance.

After half time Leigh Tsoumerkas made the score 3-1 with a 30 metre cracker from outside the area.

Bobby Despotovski scored twice in 11 minutes to further demoralise the Greens.

His first came when he pounced on a defensive error and his first time shot hit the back of the net.

Soon after he beat two defenders and shot past Jones to complete the demolition.

United: Clarke, Scott, Fak, Tsoumerkas, Tyrikos, Macnicol (Parisis), Iosifidis, Svigos, Boutsianis (Alexiou), Despotovski, Vlahos.

Greens: Jones, Drakos, Bakker, Constantinou, Theohatous (Papettas), Todorovski, Charalambous, Kalimeris, Rossios, McDonagh, Crivari.

Referee: Eugene Brazzale.
Votes: 3 — Despotovski, 2 — Scott, 1 — Macnicol.

NEXT WEEKS FIXTURES

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

ELIMINATION FINAL

Bentleigh Greens v Green Gully Cavaliers

(kick off 1230pm)

QUALIFYING FINAL

Heidelberg United v Sunshine Georgies

(kick off 300 pm)

Both games to be played at

OLYMPIC VILLAGE WEST HEIDELBERG



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VICS RETAIN THAT WINNING FORMAT

BY GREG BLAKE

As has been the case since the VSF adopted the hugely popular finals system to decide the title in 1992 the Victorian Premier League play-offs will be decided by a top five series.

The top five system — as devised originally for the Victorian (Aussie rules) Football League by a Mr McIntyre back in 1971 — is still perceived to be vastly superior to any up-dated versions of the finals format.

For example, in the case of last season's Ericsson Cup not the least of the problems was that six of 12 teams — that's half of them — were eligible to play in the finals.

This surely makes the elite series not quite what it is supposed to be.

With the Victorian version of the best five teams from 14 competing clubs, we get a far better representation of the best performed teams of the season.

For goodness sake, South Melbourne made its way into the finals in 1994/95 despite losing more games than they won.

The national league's top six system is basically flawed anyway, with the top two teams on the final ladder being given as equal chance of winning the whole box and dice.

As well, there is a disproportionate disadvantage for third through sixth. Each of these clubs start out the series with an equal chance of winning the title, meaning that there is little incentive to finish higher or lower within those four placings.

To win from third to sixth requires a five game roll, whilst the grand final can be won in just three games by finishing one or two. Under the top five system the minor premiers get the deserved advantage of an opening round rest, the double chance and a possible two game run to the title.

Second and third get a double chance and a possible three game run at the championship, whilst fourth and fifth play sudden death and face a gruelling four game road to glory.

Another noteworthy element of the retention of the top five is that every one of Australia's current elite senior sporting competitions boast quite different finals formats. Which all makes for a

particularly confusing time for the local sports nut.

The AFL (formerly VFL) and the National Basketball League have the top eight, both with different play-off formats.

The ARL has recently gone top eight as well, also with a different format again, whilst the AFL is now floating the possibility of reverting to a top six system — in a format different to that of the Ericsson Cup!

The Ericsson Cup is top six, while the Australian Baseball League is a top four system.

Bonus points to anybody who can decipher all of the above and an extra point for anyone who can explain how the NSW Super League works in 1996.

Here is how the Victorian Premier League finals system works, with the opening games next weekend.

HEIDELBERG UNITED

The league's big spenders have ended with a squad of players as impressive as any in the competition and have found form at the right time after appearing to have slipped mid-year.

A coaching change and the long-term view to re-joining the national league as the Collingwood Warriors has possibly caused a lack of focus on the job at hand.

What could be telling is the decree by Warriors boss Zoran Matic that his Ericsson Cup squad requirements will take precedence over Premier League commitments.

Any clash of fixtures during the finals between the Warriors and Heidelberg could see the guts of this Heidelberg team ripped away when it counts most.

Heidelberg goes in as favorites.

Coach: Dusan Brnovic.
Championships: 1975, 1988 and 1990.
Finalists: 1996.

Key players: Bobby Despotovski, Con Boutsianis, Andy Vlahos and George Svigos.

Finals record: This is the club's first year back at this level since the Premier League first played finals series in 1992.

Last year: Not applicable.

ALTONA MAGIC

Altona Magic was revitalised when state coach

TOP FIVE FINAL SERIES, AS USED IN VICTORIA'S

PREMIER LEAGUE:

Week One
(two games, with one team eliminated)

ELIMINATION FINAL:

4th v 5th, with loser eliminated and winner on to Minor Semi.

and

QUALIFYING FINAL:

2nd v 3rd, with loser getting second chance in Minor Semi and winner on to meet minor premier (i.e. end of season ladder leader).

Note: Minor Premier (i.e. top team at end of home and away season) gets a one week rest and does not play in opening round of finals.

Week Two
(two games, with one team eliminated)

MINOR SEMI FINAL:

Winner of Elimination Final v loser of Qualifying Final, with loser eliminated and winner on to Preliminary Final.

and

MAJOR SEMI FINAL:

Minor Premier v winner of Qualifying Final, with loser getting second chance in Preliminary Final and winner to Grand Final.

Week Three
(one game, with one team eliminated)

PRELIMINARY FINAL:

Winner of Minor Semi Final v loser of Major Semi Final, with loser eliminated and winner to Grand Final.

Week Four
(one game, with one team eliminated)

GRAND FINAL:

Winner of Major Semi Final v winner of Preliminary Final, with winner declared champions of Victoria.

PREMIER FINALS ACTION

Let the 1996 Premier League finals battle begin.

The finals are a whole new season, and for Altona Magic, Heidelberg United, Bentleigh Greens, Sunshine Georgies and Green Gully that new campaign commences this weekend.

The opening weekend brings the knock-out elimination final between fourth and fifth and the

third versus second qualifying final.

The qualifying final winner then gets the chance for a direct passage into the grand final by going on to meet the minor premiers in week two, with the end of season ladder leaders given a rest this weekend.

Here are the pocket profiles on the clubs in the 1996 finals series.

Ian Dobson took over in mid-1993 and the elevation to state super-power level has continued unabated under Gary Cole.

Over that period this team has moved swiftly into contention for the big prize, moving from sixth in '93, into the finals in 1994 and going on to win it all last time out.

Altona Magic comes into the finals with the coveted double chance again and a confidence born of a splendid finals series 12 months ago.

This year Magic has gone on with the job in style and would be rated one of the two form teams in this latter half of the campaign.

The value bet of the finals series.

Coach: Gary Cole.

Championships: 1995.
Finalists: 1994, 1995 and 1996.

Key players: Sash Becvinovski, Nick Georgiopoulos, Tom Markovski and Marjjan Tasevski.

Finals record: Magic have appeared in four finals games winning three and losing one.

Last year: 1st.

BENTLEIGH GREENS

The league's newest club was not expected to get close to the finals yet here they are on the verge of a special season.

Just as Port Melbourne did in their first season a couple of years back the largely

unknown Bentleigh Greens have taken the competition by surprise, if not by storm.

Critical injuries to their important players — a long term one which cost Ike Alagiozidis nearly half the season — stopped the Greens from a higher finish, although he should be back and firing for the play-offs.

Inexperience might be costly in the finals, although one school of thought suggests that this vibrant club can still go all the way to completing a remarkable fairy story.

Coach: Harry Chalkitis.
Championships: None.
Finalists: 1996.

Key players: Ike Alagiozidis, Andy Charolambous, Harry Michael and Gerry McDonagh.

Finals record: This is the club's first finals series.
Last year: Not applicable.

SUNSHINE GEORGIES

Sunshine is fit and focused and hoping for fourth time lucky. In both 1993 and 1994 the Georgies came into the finals with late bursts and had to test their luck on the elimination road.

Other years they played well and won games but fell short of a Grand Final.

Last season the consistent Georgies gave themselves a real chance with a quality season, a confident finish and a top three double chance but still managed to blow it when it counted.

For 1996 the Georgies made several changes to the team and the youngsters went undefeated for the opening 14 games before falling back into the pack.

Recent form suggests another finals flop, however if determination counts in the premiership equation then it could be the year of the long frustrated Georgies.

Coach: Willie Vassallo.
Championships: 1977.
Finalists: 1993, 1994 1995 and 1996.

Key players: Juan Nilo, Anthony Cassar, Ilija Dragicevic and Steve Wardle.

Finals record: The Georgies have a poor record in finals games. They have lost four of those seven.

Last year: 4th.

THOMASTOWN ZEBRAS

Coach Kenny Murphy knows the territory well, having taken clubs to grand finals at both Premier League and NSL level however their Finals hopes were crushed when Altona beat them 2-0 and their rivals Green Gully thrashed Sunshine 7-1.

Lots of experience might have helped, as would a never say die quality which has seen them grab several games in the dying moments in 1996.

Possibly the hardest working team outside the finals, but without the flair of some of the better rated clubs.

Thomastown collapsed at the finish, after they had been up at the front for much of the season.

Coach: Ken Murphy.
Championships: 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1958, 1970 and 1991 (all as Juventus).

Finalists: 1992 (as

Juventus).
Key players: Joe Tricarico, Paul Della Rocca, Harrey Ngata, and Danny Gjindic.

Finals record: As Thomastown, the club never appeared in a finals series. The former Brunswick Juventus club played in the 1992 series, with two wins out of four games. They lost one on penalties.

Last year: Not applicable.

GREEN GULLY

Big-spending Green Gully had to sweat on a place in the finals until the very final round, not that the thrilling finale to the home and away season is anything new to the Cavaliers.

After the final round heartbreak of 1994 and 1995, when the club finished sixth in successive campaigns, coach Chris Taylor and his boys probably deserve a lucky break.

The Cavs haven't had too many in 1996, yet credit to Gully for never giving up even when the chase looked impossible over the closing weeks of the season.

Just getting to the play-offs has been a victory for this former powerhouse of Victorian soccer, so who knows what to expect now that they are back in the big time.

Perhaps the determination they showed to get to the finals will carry over into the next four weeks.

Coach: Chris Taylor.
Championships: 1981, 1982 and 1983.
Finalists: 1993.

Key players: John Waddell, Steve Douglas, Vlad Babic and Steve Chetcuti.

Finals record: Gully lost its only finals match.

Last year: 6th.



PRESTON STRENGTHENS BOND WITH GOODYEAR

"Have you got any glasses to help my forwards see the goals?"

So said coach Andon Donceviski as he and his Preston Lions players put on their safety glasses and hearing protection at the start of a tour of the giant Goodyear tyre plant at Thomastown.

He would not have known in advance but it turned out to be an appropriate question in view of Lions 0-2 loss to Western Suburbs two days later.

Nevertheless, Preston remained in second place on the ladder and well placed to clinch promotion to the Premier League.

Players and officials were greeted warmly by associates on the shop floor as they were shown through the various production phases of the plant.

Over refreshments in the canteen afterwards, Goodyear

Manufacturing Manager Bryan Mears stressed that not only the many soccer fans at the plant but also the company as a whole was keenly interested in the club's progress.

He promised that the company, which sponsors Preston along with Lalor United and Thomastown Zebras, would further strengthen its ties with the club next season.

"It is a perfect partnership because Goodyear is successful and I know you will be successful," Bryan said.

A few weeks before the tour by Lions, the plant played host to Carlton AFL champions Greg Williams and Mil Hanna.

After learning of the plant's safety initiatives — protective glasses and hearing protection — Donceviski remarked, "These are very important if you are to avoid problems later in life."

"I don't want the workers to be the same as my players on a bad day — blind and deaf."



Preston coach Anton Donceviski with Goodyear employee Bobby Capkumoski.



WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR



AUSSIES' BIG STEP FORWARD

The new look Australian Team made the journey to Florida and took on superpowers USA, China and Japan. The opposition were in their last minute preparations for the Olympic Games, yet it was the Aussies who came away with the most to smile about.

Four very close results against USA and China with only a goal separating the determined Aussie outfit, ending our credibility to unexpected heights. And this was achieved with very little preparation, on foreign turf with draining heat and much travel. Yet other likely starters in the Australian lineup — Iannotta, Salisbury, Watson, Wainwright and Alagich — were all absent from this tour.

USA and China went on to play out the Olympic final...

CHANGING FACE

National Coach Tom Sermanni last week returned home after five weeks in the USA, staying after the USA Tour to witness the Olympic competition. He shares his thoughts about Australia's performances and the changing face of international football.

"Significant steps forward came out of this tour," was Sermanni's summing up of the more than pleasing tour results.

"Our performances against these teams was a great step

forward in the development of players and the team. The results convinced them of the things they can actually do."

"This was the first time we had gone in and played our new 4-2-2 system," added Sermanni. "We had experimented with it in New Zealand, but obviously not against this quality of opposition. This time we came under real testing circumstances, and it worked very successfully."

HARMONY

But it was more than just a pleasing display on the park. Sermanni's young charges demonstrated a fresh new mental approach to the game.

"Everyone chipped in together — there was a great deal of harmony in the squad and the feeling that everybody was out there battling for each other," said Sermanni.

"Before the last match against China, we thought we were going to win that game. Previously, the team would tend to think we're not really in it. Without questioning players' commitment or effort back then, this is the first time since I've been with the team they have been upset in the end when they didn't win."

PROMISING FUTURE

All these different factors add up to a promising future, and a great foundation on which to build as we finally appear to be coming of age on

the international scene.

"In many ways, these results are beginning to show rewards of the ITC system in the development of players. We have the first signs of depth in our squad. And in what is a major step forward, there is now a lot greater competition for places."

"Football can be a strange game — little things can turn the corner for you," responded Sermanni. "In that first match, we scored in the opening five minutes, a great goal from Sharon Black. And they didn't score the winner until very late in the game. USA walked into the field confident. They would run over the top of us."

"In the second match against USA, we lost goals at bad times — three minutes in, and straight after half-time through a goalkeeping error. But USA became visibly exhausted, and we were on a high, still in with a chance, as a result, we were able to score a late goal."

"This became significant for the rest of the tour, and gave us confidence."

Next challenge was the lesser Japan, a real opportunity for Australia to consolidate its pleasing performances. "This match was probably our poorest performance, and ended in a draw."

Then due to kickoff against China less than 24 hours later, the Australians had to endure a horrendously long bus journey, the driver getting lost and the team arriving at the

stadium very late. Sunni Hughes had left for Japan to start club pre-season, and Katrina Boyd was injured, leaving the side without its main strikeforce. After all the drama, Australia was beaten just 1-0.

"The next day, the feeling was 'We are going to beat this team', recalled Sermanni. In that last match, the Aussies again shone to come more go down by just the solitary goal.

NOT FAR BEHIND

In looking at the results, Australia is not all that far behind these great teams. USA and China were the best at the Olympics, both making the final. And in their matches against Denmark and Sweden, dealt out quite a hammering. The question on everyone's lips is "How would Australia have fared?"

"In reality, we were not ready to have got there summarised Sermanni."

This time a spectator at women's football's first appearance at the Olympic Games, Sermanni was able to make important assessments of the world's top teams.

COMPARISONS

Sermanni made the following comparisons between Australia and the eight Olympic teams. "USA are not really beatable yet. China, on the right day, we could maybe get a result, and Norway remain tough. But

outside these three, we could give as good as we got."

"We had numerous significant performers. More are beginning to mature as players. For example, Casagrande at age eighteen is one of the most experienced players. Sunni is playing the best I've seen her play. Bridgette Starr and Louise McMurtrie are beginning to flourish with the added responsibility."

"USA really benefitted — we gave them two real workouts. With some hard work, two years down the track, we may surprise them."

"I'm surprised more teams didn't want to play us," added Sermanni. "Denmark and Sweden looked underprepared and not acclimatised. We would happily have played more games."

"The Olympics may have showed a shifting of power. The northern European sides didn't perform particularly well. They have to be careful not to think they don't need to improve, as others are catching up," assessed Sermanni.

"USA deservedly won, and it was due to their preparation. They had done what is necessary to prepare properly. The Olympics were a real eye opener. China and USA have improved since the World Cup, but Norway have stayed the same. Sweden and Denmark have not improved, neither Japan where the national league's best players are the imports. Brazil showed

improvement but don't look a frightening side."

IMPROVE OUR PLAY

Sermanni continued: "The key thing we need to do now is to improve our actual play." "I think we've won the battle of fitness, awareness, and we're beginning to make tracks with tactical awareness. We really need to start concentrating on our ability to play football, keep possession and be more competitive in that area, we need technical work, and to become more comfortable on the ball. Our next stage is to start winning against the better teams."



Sharon Black with Kelly Golebiowski.

NSW GRAND FINALE

Grand Final day for the NSW Women's State League will for the first time be held in conjunction with the men's Super League grand finals.

This Sunday 25th August, Reserve Grade and First Grade WSL will kick off at 9am and 1pm, with the men scheduled for 11am and 3pm. Venue is the plush surface of Marconi Stadium.

NSW TOP SCHOOLGIRLS

The Australian School-girls' Championship contested a fortnight ago in Victoria's Geelong saw NSW maintain their dominance of the event.

Their win brought them four consecutive titles, and a total of nine from the ten championships contested since their inception in 1987.

The Geelong weather reminded everyone it was still winter, with strong winds and squally rain a spoiler to the week long event.

From the outset, it became evident that NSW and Queensland would be the teams to beat. Both won their opening two games before

FINAL PLACINGS:

1.	NSW	10pts
2.	QLD	7
3.	VIC	6
4.	ACT	5
5.	WA	2
6.	NT	0

meeting on Day Three. NSW won the vital clash with a solitary goal, although probably deserved to win by more.

Yet it still came down to the last day for final placings to be decided, both Queensland and Victoria still in with a chance. But the defending champions were not about to let the title slip

from their grasp, convincingly defeating Victoria by six goals, and taking honours with maximum points.

Player of the Tournament was awarded to Lindsay Whiddett of Queensland, with two NSW players, Carly Copeland and Danielle Small, sharing the top goalscoring tally with five apiece.

NSW deservedly provided the largest proportion of players for the Australian Schoolgirls Team, announced at the week's conclusion. The 16-member team will tour Great Britain in December, playing several internationals and club matches.

Win! ASICS Kit

It's just about finals time in soccer competitions across the country, and to help you get into the spirit, Asics and ABSW bring you the chance to win the ultimate addition to your soccer wardrobe.

Get in your entry for a shot at winning one of three Australian Team Asics strips in the latest modern designs. The three best entries will win a full kit — shirt, short and socks worth over \$80 each.

Very popular with the Australian team players themselves, the range extends to three great designs.

All three feature the AWSA logo in a different and striking way. The fashionable favourite has been the blue and emerald stripe jersey with the logo sublimated on the fabric through each emerald stripe.

The white version is anything but plain with its large centrepiece 'watermark' logo embossed across the front.

Latest addition is the gold shirt, a long sleeve jersey with a trio of AWA logos emblazoned diagonally down the front and the Asics name logo throughout the material.

All three will keep you in the fashion stakes with the grandpa collar finish.

Even if you're not a winner here, you can still get your hands on this merchandise. Asics are now stocking retail sports shops so you can look the part as a supporter of Australian women's soccer. Wherever you are, make enquiries with your favourite sport store.

For your chance to win, tell us who your favourite female soccer player is and why. Please limit your entry to 50 words or less. The three entries judged as the best will each win an Asics kit —

shirt, shorts and socks.

To complete your entry, please make sure you add your name, telephone number address, and age.

The competition has been extended until August 30.

Entries must be received by:-
Friday 30 August 1996

AT THE FOLLOWING MAIL ADDRESS:-
Women's Writes Asics
Competition
9B/18 Lucy Street,



Sonia Gegenhuber, Katrina Boyd and Lisa Casagrande: With the ASICS Australia team shirts which are the prizes in the competition.

MELBOURNE ZEBRAS SHOCK WINNERS

At last, a new team has taken the Premiership honours in the Victorian Premier League, ending a decade of domination by Cranbourne (formerly Berwick City) and South Melbourne.

The new kids on the block are the Melbourne Zebras, a very young outfit including six from the state's ITC Squad. "I worked out we have an average age of 17 1/2 to 18," said a delighted coach Noel Bruzzese.

The 1996 Zebras were a new combination, a number of new players joining from other clubs and divisions. Several retirements from previous Zebras players opened the door for the youngsters to grab their chance.

They joined a small remaining core of players which included the two previous winners of Victoria's Best and Fairest award — Natalie Bruzzese (who at 15 became the youngest winner), and Cathy Minniti.

The new group gelled, and set their main objective of winning the league. The Zebras fulfilled their aim, beating Cranbourne in both rounds on the way.

"I'm over the moon," said Noel Bruzzese. "But actually it would have been good if we had just come second. Then we would still have our objective to aim for next year. Now we have become the benchmark, everyone wants to knock us off."

And the players have been rewarded for their talent with representation in State Teams — one in Juniors, seven in the Youth team, and three in the Open State side.

The Zebras are currently playing in the finals series, and are also semi-finalists in the Cup competition. So more honours may yet come their way.



SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHART —



MARADONA WILL LEAVE BOCA JUNIORS



Diego Maradona: Announces that he will leave Boca Juniors.

Diego Armando Maradona announced that he will leave Boca Juniors at the end of the current Argentine soccer league first phase and then will think about his future in professional soccer.

"It will be my last game with Boca Juniors, I take responsibility for all the penalties I missed and for the latest Boca's defeats, as I always have done in the past," said Maradona during an interview broadcast by the popular Radio Mitre of Buenos Aires.

After the unexpected 1-0 loss to Estudiantes de La Plata at Boca's own "La Bombonera" stadium, the former Argentine national team captain said he wasn't sure about his future and what decision to take in respect of his career as a professional soccer player.

"I can assure everybody that I won't play for Boca anymore. I have made the decision already, but I can't

say if I'm going to play football or not in the future," added Maradona.

The player also showed his anger at some press reports that blamed Boca's bad fortune on the five penalties he missed in consecutive matches for the local league.

"Some of those so called journalists tried to make people believe that Boca Juniors lost the tournament because I missed five penalties. It makes me upset that after all the years I have played, and all the effort I have made to give my best, some people have the courage to write or say so many stupid things.

However, Maradona praised Bilardo's support and understood the angry reaction of Boca Juniors fans against him after he missed the fifth penalty against Racing Club, two weeks ago.

"Carlos Bilardo was very supportive and he is a great man. I hope he will be my coach again if I decide to play football for another club. I

also understand the fans. They have the right to be upset with me. I shouldn't miss so many penalty attempts, but there is nothing I can do now."

Finally, the 35 years old veteran added that, "I hope Boca Juniors wins the next tournament. I will give my life from the stands for Boca's victory. The team will never die even without me."

Meanwhile, Boca's president, Mauricio Macri said that he will not interfere in Diego's relationship with the fans, and he will wait a few days until everything cools off before he talks with the player.

"I'm surprised by Diego's decision, but I will not be involved in his relationship with the fans. I want to reaffirm that I would like Maradona to win a championship with Boca before he retires."

The star striker is reported to have flown to Switzerland last week seeking treatment for his drug addiction.

MORE ARGENTINES TO EUROPE

More Argentine players will further their careers with European teams after days of intensive dealing between local clubs and counterparts mainly from Italy and Spain.

Boca Juniors who recently spent \$A10m on players of the calibre of strikers Sebastian Rambert and Silvio Carrallo, attacking midfielder Diogo Latorre and defender Fernando Caceres, has sold its star midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron to Italian first division club Sampdoria for a reported \$A9.5million.

Veron, the son of former Argentine international and Estudiantes de La Plata striker Juan Veron, is one of the most talented youngsters ever produced in the country. Last year, Boca Juniors paid Estudiantes only \$A2 million for the rising star.

Another player from Boca Juniors transferred to Europe is defender Fernando Gamboa. The former Argentine international has been bought by Spanish club Oviedo for \$A1.5million.

Meanwhile Boca's arch-rivals, River Plate, the winner of the 1996 Libertadores Cup is also selling some of its most promising players to European clubs.

Defender Juan Andres Gomez, who hasn't been capped and was on the substitute's bench for most of the Argentine league with the "millionaires" of Buenos Aires, has been sold to Spanish first division club Real Sociedad for \$A4 million.

Another River Plate player, defender Mariano Juan, who was a member of the Argentine U20 Youth World Cup winning team in Qatar, has been transferred to Dutch giant Ajax of Amsterdam for \$A1.6 million.

San Lorenzo of Almagro, another of the Argentine big guns has sold its prolific striker Claudio Dario Biaggio to French club Bordeaux for \$A2million, while Rosario Central have transferred Pablo Andres Sanchez and Patricio Graff to Dutch team Feyenoord for \$A1.7 and \$A550,000 respectively.

Finally, Estudiantes de La Plata's Edgardo Pratola has joined Mexican first division club Leon of Mexico for just \$A750,000.

Uruguay tours Japan and Morocco and Francescoli returns

The Uruguayan national team will play in Japan on August 25 and later will travel to Morocco to participate in a four nation tournament with the host nation, Croatia and Nigeria.

The match against Indonesia to be played in Jakarta on August 28, has been cancelled due to political unrest in the Asian country.

The good news in the Uruguayan camp is the return of Enzo Francescoli to the squad.

Francescoli made the decision to comeback from

international retirement, to help the South American champions in their aim to qualify for the 1998 World Cup in France, after several meetings with Uruguayan officials and coach Hector Nunez.

The former Uruguayan captain confirmed that he will be available for the rest of the South American qualifying rounds and will make his comeback against Bolivia in September.

The return of Enzo Francescoli, the captain of the squad who won the last Copa

America in 1995, is a great boost and will enhance the chances of Uruguay qualifying among the top four South American nations.

Hector Nunez was ecstatic with the news. "It is great news. Enzo is a brilliant footballer.

His leadership qualities and his talent will help be a great asset to the team.

With Francescoli in the squad our chance of qualifying for the World Cup have increased enormously."



Enzo Francescoli: Back to help the South American champions.

COLOMBIAN COACH NAMED SQUAD

Colombian national coach Hernan Gomez announced his squad to face Chile on September 1 in the South American World Cup qualifying rounds.

The Colombians will play two friendly internationals against Mexican first division clubs Veracruz, in Veracruz, and America in Chicago, USA, as part of their build-up preparation for the match against the Chileans.

Gomez will have a full squad, including his overseas based players Carlos Valderama (Tampa Bay, USA), Faustino Asprilla (Newcastle, England), and Farid Mondragon (Independiente, Argentina).

The Colombian squad is:

Goalkeepers: Mondragon, Calero, Pazo.

Defenders: Santa, Moreno, Mendoza, Lopez, Moreno.

Midfielders: Ramirez, Serna, Restrepo Mosquera, Quinonez, Valderama.

Strikers: Asprilla, Escobar, Maffia.

ASIA

We thought it would be interesting to look at the FIFA World Rankings in relation to Asia Confederation countries.

We have slotted Australia in to enable comparisons to be made with our Asian rivals.

Sixth would be the position occupied if Australia was part of the Asian Confederation. New Zealand would be 20th! Sri Lanka are just behind the All Whites.

If the Asian play-offs for the '98 World Cup go according to these rankings, Australia will play China as the 4th Asian team, for a place in France.



Asia extract from World Rankings:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. Japan | 11. Singapore |
| 2. Saudi Arabia | 12. Uzbekistan |
| 3. Korea Republic | 13. Malaysia |
| 4. China PR | 14. Myanmar |
| 5. Iran | 15. India |
| * Australia | 16. Bahrain |
| 6. Thailand | 17. Bangladesh |
| 7. UAE | 18. Indonesia |
| 8. Oman | 19. Vietnam |
| 9. Qatar | * New Zealand |
| 10. Lebanon | 20. Sri Lanka |

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YEEHAAAAA!
We're finally back into it. The Scottish Leagues kicked off a week before England but they're all up and running at last. Absolutely no idea how the English results have turned out of course, they'll be covered in here somewhere, but the usual controversy has already begun.

The Gunners have had a lean time of things recently except when it comes to bed publicity. Following on from the George Graham Affair, Tony Adams Drink/Driving jail sentence, Paul Merson's drug/alcohol/gambling confessions, comes the latest in a long line of strange events for the N5 club.

After waiting 12 months for Bruce (Brian if you listen to CH10?) Rioch to sign a contract, as soon as he does they sack him! The reason being five days before the season kicks-off. A matter of a hidden agenda perhaps?

The media choice of next manager at Highbury immediately fell on the shoulders of Terry Venables once more, now unencumbered with the England job. This was a non-starter from the off. If he couldn't do the national job because of time consuming court cases pending, how could he manage the day to day running of a Premier League side? He is reported to have signed on with Portsmouth as Director of Football which should also put him out of the running but "stranger things happen at sea" as they say.

Joe Royle, Howard Wilkinson, Steve Coppell et al will no doubt have been mentioned in the press too but the smart money is on Johan Cruyff taking over at Highbury. By now, this should certainly be confirmed and should he arrive in North London, expect a few more Dutchmen to grace the league, perhaps a De Boere boy or a Kluivert?

Cruyff has a decent pedigree as a manager but his "off the cuff" remarks have angered many, including the players and hierarchy at his former post of Barcelona. "Barca" are probably one of the biggest supported clubs in the world and the pressure there were immense and you



Johan Cruyff: Would make the sparks fly at Highbury.

have to look at his timely sacking closely as to whether it is great or poor timing (poor if your name is Brian (?) Rioch certainly).

14th January 1970 saw Cruyff and his Dutch masters take on England at Wembley in a friendly. The game finished 0-0 but was probably one of the most entertaining matches I've ever had the pleasure of watching. Although "total football" or Tor if you prefer, could be dour with the emphasis on oppression and suppression, this evening it wasn't. Cruyff



Liam Brady: Ex Highbury hero back at N5 (1BU) in a back room capacity.

was a joy to watch as he pulled out all the stops, twisting and turning, flick-backs, chips, superb running on and off the ball. He gave

the English full-backs a 'mare that night.

What was evident was the skill factor of the individuals concerned. They were ONLY Holland after all but they made the football world sit up and take notice. Will Coerver had perfected training techniques which were used at Ajax as they became the power team in Europe and Dutch football became increasingly more difficult to combat.

Cruyff would bring this knowledge to Highbury but would also need to bring in a few players who could achieve his overall design. Britain in general has forgotten about skill over the years and concentrated more on the speed and physical side of things. While this has been going on, European sides have allowed the "gifted ones" to express themselves within the team structure: Brolin, Baggio, Maradona etc.

That has changed with the inception of the Premier League, on both sides of the border, which has culminated in the signing of big name foreign stars. The situation has been further exacerbated by the Bosman Ruling and the failing Lire of course and though long thought of as the best, the English Premier League is now certainly the top footballing league in the world.

With son Jordi now at Man Utd. Johan Cruyff could well settle down to the English way



George Graham: Following his reign future Highbury bosses transfer activities will be curtailed.

and a certain Dennis Bergkamp.

The drawback would be that he would almost certainly insist on handling transfers himself, which are currently undertaken by Messrs Friar and Dien after the Graham scandal that rocked the club. Cruyff is his own man and past clashes with the boys from upstairs have readily

the "Hand of God" incident, has threatened to quit Boca Juniors once more, this time for real though? Nothing strange about that but it's also rumoured that he's back in Switzerland at the Drug Rehab Centre where he has spent so much of his career. It's such a shame that his name will forever be linked with the darker side of his nature

having a regular "video review" section. This will cover many aspects of the sport but will also give everyone a chance to purchase official videos direct from the distributor at sensible prices. We've even managed a special coup for you too. Fill in the coupon and send off for a price list, mention the UKSSD and ABSW and you will receive the very special offer of "buy four get one free" (pay ONLY postage for the free video). Now there's a deal no-one in Australia can offer you.

Videos start at the ludicrous price of \$15 each and that includes AIRMAIL postage from the UK! The company offers over 90 Italian videos (with Italian commentary) and almost 1,000 English and Scottish titles are available. Interested? You should be. Deal direct and save money. All the top clubs are covered as well as the world game, latest releases, history, training and much more. (Many Scottish, smaller club videos available plus plenty of hard to get items too.

not for anyone under the age of 18 years as the stories can be quite colourful at times? A small selection follows:

George Best (Former Man Utd & Nth Ireland star):

"I spent most of my money on horses, booze, fast cars and women, the rest I squandered!"

Keith O'Keefe (Former West Ham Jnr):

"Jim Leighton missed two planes back from Italia 90. The first went through his legs, the second he thought he had covered but it took a late deflection."

Duncan McKenzie (Former Leeds, Notts Forest, Chelsea, Everton):

Tommy Smith was the original Scud Missile. You could see him coming but there was bugger all you could do about it."

Tommy Docherty (Too many to mention!):

George Best has a new drink. Whisky and Windolene. The effects are the same but when he gets up in the morning, his eyes are clear."

Tommy Smith (Liverpool):

The only Mates Emlyn Hughes had were the ones you got out of a machine."

Jackie Blanchflower (Man Utd Busby Babe, Munich survivor): "Man Utd v Aston Villa 1957 FA Cup Final. 5 minutes gone and our 'keeper got injured. I was "volunteered" into goal, that's when I learnt the real colour of Adrenalin was brown!"

This is only a brief sample of course but there is much more and better inside. Raises some great laughs with true and perhaps some embellished stories from the past. Duncan McKenzie talks about "Cloughie", Tommy Smith slaughters "Crazy Horse" and George Best answers "where it all went wrong" ... maybe?

Very funny offering, not for minors, 9 pounds 50 pence (incl. postage). Star rating *** 1/2.

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been reported before. If it does happen, watch out for some real fireworks down Highbury way this year ... on or off the pitch?

Since we began our season preview, some four weeks ago now, no sooner has the ink dried when changes need to be made Alan Shearer's \$30 million (quite an obscene amount) move from Blackburn Rovers to Newcastle United probably being the main one. Forget the Charity Shield result, although not going out to lose and certainly not by four goals in what is after all is said and done, nothing more than a pre-season friendly, the real business started last Saturday.

Can Shearer and Ferdinand slot in together? They've not done so for England but those chances have been restricted. Will "Ferdie" head back down south as rumoured or will Asprilla get the flick? Two similar players, with Shearer having the edge in all departments, the No. 9 always gets good service to St James Park. It could well prove an embarrassment of riches.

Diego Maradona, a name synonymous with

whenever mentioned and perhaps not always for the silky way he ghosted past defenders or the curling shot etc. A terrible way to finish a wonderful career.

The off-season may be over and the Euro 96 championships not withstanding, it hasn't been a quite time. The UKSSD 7 ABSW are pleased to announce a major breakthrough for supporters of the beautiful game. Over the next few weeks, we'll be

Remember: ALL videos are "official" and you can call us for a brief rundown or write to us at the usual address for more information). Cost of an airmail letter to England is \$1.20, what have you got to lose?

VIDEO REVIEW

THE REFEREE'S

A - - - -
60 minutes of pure unadulterated fun. Certainly



Docherty & Best: Don't let those cups fool you. They contain milk!

BERWICK RANGERS

by Stuart Jones

Ground: Shielfield Park
Address: Shielfield Terrace, Tweedmouth, Berwick upon Tweed, TD15 2EF.
Railway Station: Berwick-upon-Tweed
Founded: 1881
Admitted to League: 1951
Ground Capacity: 4,200
Seats: 1,400
Pitch Size: 112 yards by 76 yards
Largest Gate: 13,365 v Rangers Scottish Cup Rd 1 1967
Biggest Win: 8-1 v Forfar Athletic Div 2 December 25, 1965 v Vale of Leithen Scottish Cup Dec 1966 1-9 v Hamilton A 1st Division August 9, 1980
Biggest Loss: 1-9 v Hamilton A 1st Division August 9, 1980
Nickname: The Borderers
Colours: Gold and Black
Honours: League: Division 2 — 1978-79
History: Formed in 1981

Berwick played at Bull Stob Close for five years. Between 1886 and 1890 they played at Pier Field. They then moved to Meadow Field and then onto Union Park. In 1919 they were evicted and the team moved to its current home, Shielfield Park.

They had competed in the Northumberland and Border competitions but were now involved in the Scottish League despite being inside England's borders.

Originally the ground was next door to the current one for in 1951 Berwick joined the C Division in Scotland and built a new ground next to its old park.

The new ground was opened with a friendly against Aston Villa in September 1954. It had mainly been built by volunteers.

In 1955 the club reached Division Two. In front of the club's largest gate in 1967 the club upset Rangers 1-0 in the Scottish Cup.

The club had floodlights erected in 1972. In the early 1980s the club had a brief sojourn into Division One after winning Division Two in 1979. Last season the club finished third in Division Two, a full 10 points from promoted second place.

The club will continue to look for first division football in Scotland.

THE OLDEST KICKS OFF

BY HENRY WIZGIER

The 98th Edition of the oldest Football League in the world — in any code, kicked off at the weekend.

When the first edition started in 1888, the FA Cup had already been in existence for 15 years and was the only serious Competition.

However, despite its growing popularity, it was totally inadequate to provide the new professional clubs with enough competition games to pay their players.

The Football League's creation is generally listed as March 2, 1888. On that day a Scotsman from Birmingham by the name of William McGregor sent out a circular letter to all the prominent clubs in England suggesting the formation of a league.

The first formal meeting was held in Manchester on April 17 where 'The Football League' was officially born.

Twelve clubs made up that first league and at the end of the inaugural season, Preston North End were not only its first Champions, but also the first ever double winners, having already beaten Wolverhampton Wanderers 3-0 to take the FA Cup.

Those first 12 and their final positions were: 1st-Preston North End; 2-Aston

Villa; 3-Wolverhampton Wanderers; 4-Blackburn Rovers; 5-Bolton Wanderers; 6-West Bromwich Albion; 7-Accrington; 8-Everton; 9-Burnley; 10-Derby County; 11-Notts County; 12-Stoke City.

Of that dozen only Accrington have disappeared from the 'top-echelon', that is, the top four all-professional leagues (Premier to Division 3).



Man Utd are often referred to as England's greatest club but a quick glance at the statistics shows that Liverpool leave the, and all the rest standing by a mile, when it comes to where it counts — League titles. On top of that of course — they have also won four European Champions Cup's to Man Utd's one.

Only three clubs have ever won a hat-trick of titles. The first would you believe were (then) mighty Huddersfield Town in 1924/25/26.

They were built by the



legendary Herbert Chapman who then went on to a small North London club called Arsenal where he repeated the feat — although unfortunately he died before he could witness the completion of his work.

The Gunners became the first London (and south England) team to win the league — after nearly 40 years of existence. Liverpool in 1982/83/84 complete the 'hat-trick' of hat-trick winners.

There are two great myths regarding two other late-great managers Bill Shankly and Matt Busby. Myth one is that



Liverpool were a small club living in the shadows of mighty Everton when Shanks took the reigns in 1961. It's true they'd had a slight mishap to find themselves in the second division, but as the record shows they're already won five titles the same as their 'toffee-nosed' neighbours.

The same thing goes for Matt Busby. When he came to a 'bombed-out' (literally — by Luftwaffe bombers) Old Trafford, it's generally assumed that the red's were Manchester's second-fiddle club. In the title stakes they were however already leading their neighbours 3-1.

Tottenham Hotspur are generally regarded as one of England's 'Big Five'. Yet — they have managed to win only two League Championships in their entire history — the same as Burnley, Portsmouth and Derby County. (Especially popular with Arsenal fans that bit of info).

If Kevin Keegan's cheque-book binge pays off and Newcastle take their fifth title come next Merry Month of May, they will be celebrating it on the 70th anniversary since they last won it.

However, they will still be one behind neighbours and premier league newcomers Sunderland.

English Football League Champions

Year	Edition	Club Name
1888-89	(1)	Preston North End
1889-90	(2)	Preston North End
1890-91	(3)	Everton
1891-92	(4)	Sunderland
1892-93	(5)	Sunderland
1893-94	(6)	Aston Villa
1894-95	(7)	Sunderland
1895-96	(8)	Aston Villa
1896-97	(9)	Aston Villa
1897-98	(10)	Sheffield United
1898-99	(11)	Aston Villa
1899-00	(12)	Aston Villa
1900-01	(13)	Liverpool
1901-02	(14)	Sunderland
1902-03	(15)	Sheffield Wednesday
1903-04	(16)	Sheffield Wednesday
1904-05	(17)	Newcastle United
1905-06	(18)	Liverpool
1906-07	(19)	Newcastle United
1907-08	(20)	Manchester United
1908-09	(21)	Newcastle United
1909-10	(22)	Aston Villa
1910-11	(23)	Manchester United
1911-12	(24)	Blackburn Rovers
1912-13	(25)	Sunderland
1913-14	(26)	Blackburn Rovers
1914-15	(27)	Everton
1915-16		
1916-17		NO COMPETITION
1917-18		DUE TO WORLD WAR I
1918-19		
1919-20	(28)	West Bromwich Albion
1920-21	(29)	Burnley
1921-22	(30)	Liverpool
1922-23	(31)	Liverpool
1923-24	(32)	Huddersfield
1924-25	(33)	Huddersfield
1925-26	(34)	Huddersfield
1926-27	(35)	Newcastle United
1927-28	(36)	Everton
1928-29	(37)	Sheffield Wednesday
1929-30	(38)	Sheffield Wednesday
1930-31	(39)	Arsenal

1931-32	(40)	Everton
1932-33	(41)	Arsenal
1933-34	(42)	Arsenal
1934-35	(43)	Arsenal
1935-36	(44)	Sunderland
1936-37	(45)	Manchester City
1937-38	(46)	Arsenal
1938-39	(47)	Everton
1939-40		
1940-41		
1941-42		NO COMPETITION
1942-43		
1943-44		DUE TO WORLD WAR II
1944-45		
1945-46		
1946-47	(48)	Liverpool
1947-48	(49)	Arsenal
1948-49	(50)	Portsmouth
1949-50	(51)	Portsmouth
1950-51	(52)	Tottenham Hotspur
1951-52	(53)	Manchester United
1952-53	(54)	Arsenal
1953-54	(55)	Wolves
1954-55	(56)	Chelsea
1955-56	(57)	Manchester United
1956-57	(58)	Manchester United
1957-58	(59)	Wolves
1958-59	(60)	Wolves
1959-60	(61)	Burnley
1960-61	(62)	Tottenham Hotspur
1961-62	(63)	Ipswich Town
1962-63	(64)	Everton
1963-64	(65)	Liverpool
1964-65	(66)	Manchester United
1965-66	(67)	Liverpool
1966-67	(68)	Manchester United
1967-68	(69)	Manchester City
1968-69	(70)	Leeds United
1969-70	(71)	Everton
1970-71	(72)	Arsenal
1971-72	(73)	Derby County
1972-73	(74)	Liverpool
1973-74	(75)	Leeds United
1974-75	(76)	Derby County

1975-76	(77)	Liverpool
1976-77	(78)	Liverpool
1977-78	(79)	Nottingham Forest
1978-79	(80)	Liverpool
1979-80	(81)	Liverpool
1980-81	(82)	Aston Villa
1981-82	(83)	Liverpool
1982-83	(84)	Liverpool
1983-84	(85)	Liverpool
1984-85	(86)	Everton
1985-86	(87)	Liverpool
1986-87	(88)	Everton
1987-88	(89)	Liverpool
1988-89	(90)	Arsenal
1989-90	(91)	Liverpool
1990-91	(92)	Arsenal
1991-92	(93)	Leeds United
1992-93	(94)	Manchester United
1993-94	(95)	Manchester United
1994-95	(96)	Blackburn Rovers
1995-96	(97)	Manchester United
1996-97	(98)	??????????

Club Name	Championships
Liverpool	18
Manchester United	10
Arsenal	10
Everton	9
Aston Villa	7
Sunderland	6
Newcastle United	4
Sheffield Wednesday	4
Leeds United	3
Huddersfield Town	3
Wolverhampton Wanderers	3
Blackburn Rovers	3
Burnley	2
Derby County	2
Manchester City	2
Portsmouth	2
Preston North End	2
Tottenham Hotspur	2
Chelsea	1
Ipswich Town	1
Nottingham Forest	1
Sheffield United	1
West Bromwich Albion	1

23 clubs, have won the Football League.

UK STORIES

EURO INVASION

Forget the squabbles over beef and a single European currency. When it comes to soccer, the English cannot get enough of their continental neighbours.

When the premier league kicked off last weekend, talent from mainland Europe was everywhere, from newly-promoted Derby where Croat, Aljosa Asanovic made his British debut, to the real title contenders, Manchester United, Newcastle, Liverpool, Chelsea and Blackburn.

For the second year running, English soccer has emerged from a heady summer of transfer deals with the sort of trade deficit that would make a finance minister blush.

Pre-season spending on imports is up around the \$A100million mark for the first time ever. And big premier league exports? Well, there aren't any.

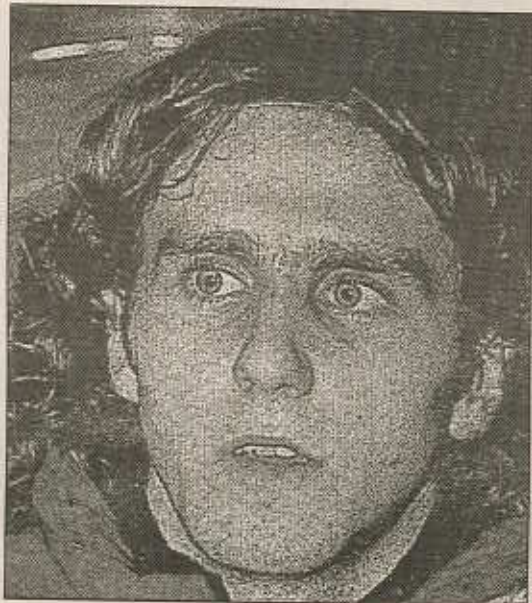
Whereas a few years ago the best players in England would have looked to Italy or Spain as stages on which to further their careers, now they are content to stay at home.

Alan Shearer is the most spectacular example of that. A \$A30m transfer deal took him not to Milan's San Siro or Barcelona's Nou Camp, but to St James's Park, Newcastle, five km from where he was born.

Newcastle, still smarting from defeat to Manchester United in last year's league campaign, started this year's quest for their first league title since 1927 at Everton on Saturday.

While Newcastle boss Kevin Keegan has pulled off the most audacious coup of the close season in signing Shearer, United's Alex Ferguson has written the greatest number of cheques.

Among United's new faces are Dutch forward Jordi Cruyff from Barcelona, Czech Euro 96 hero Karel Poborsky from Slavia Prague, Norwegians Ole Gunnar and



Karel Poborsky: New face at Old Trafford.

Ronny Johnsen.

United, who began at Wimbledon must start narrow favourites to defend their title.

The big question hanging over United is their will to win the league.

With three titles in the last four years, Ferguson and the men in red may have their hearts set on the European Cup more than the English Championship.

The prize for bargain of the summer must go to Ruud Gullit for taking Gianluca Vialli to Chelsea without paying Juventus a single lira.

Vialli teams up with compatriot Roberto di Matteo and French international defender Franck Leboeuf to give Chelsea their best chance of a major title since the early 1970s when they lifted the FA Cup and European Cup Winners' Cup.

Middlesbrough have also been raiding Serie A in the close season, paying \$A14m for Juventus striker Fabrizio Ravanelli.

He links up with Brazilians Juninho and

Branco, who signed last season, and Emerson, who joined from Porto this northern summer.

It remains to be seen whether Middlesbrough have the all-round strength to bring the league title to their glittering Riverside Stadium.

Blackburn have had a quiet summer by their own recent standards, but they made a fortune from the



Aljosa Asanovic: A Croat at Derby.

Shearer transfer and may well look to replace the England man with a major European buy before too long.

Liverpool, the only team to seriously challenge United and Newcastle in last year's championship, will once again be pushing hard for a record 19th league title.

Their strengths lie in their ever-improving young British players — Stan Collymore, Robbie Fowler, Steve McManaman and Jason McAteer. Liverpool too have been shopping in Europe, signing Czech Patrik Berger from German champions Borussia Dortmund.

Even the premier league's more modest clubs are putting aside their traditional Euro-scepticism to trade with their EU partners.

But, perhaps more than ever before, there is a feeling the likes of Manchester United and Newcastle are a class apart.

The two sides are due to face each other at Old Trafford on April 23, 1997, just a fortnight before the league season ends. It could turn out to be the title decider.

SKY SWAMPS

SPORTS FANS IN UK

Armchair British fans will be able to watch 14,000 hours of sports coverage over the next year, an average of 38 hours a day, as Rupert Murdoch's Sky TV bids to strengthen its hand in the British market.

Sky said last week the new English domestic football season which kicked off last weekend, will be "the most televised" in British football history.

The satellite service launched Sky Sports 3 on

Wednesday, to complement Sports 1 and Sports 2, with coverage from Thursday through to Sunday nights.

More than 170 live games from the Premiership, the FA Cup and the League Cup will be broadcast, as well as action from the lower divisions.

Sky said it aims to increase dramatically the 5.3 million households it already serves and claims that terrestrial TV cannot compete with the breadth of its coverage.

The station has exclusive live rights until the close of the 2000/01 season to cover the Premiership, for which it has paid \$A1.4m. Sky highlights its ability to offer a comprehensive package of sport that terrestrial TV can only dream of by pointing to the weekend of August 31, when it will have coverage of top-class soccer, cricket, rugby union and rugby league.

Celtic's turnover rises over fifty percent

Celtic's revival on the pitch was reflected today in the Glasgow club's balance sheets, showing a huge increase in turnover.

The club unveiled their annual accounts for the year ending on June 30, revealing turnover had risen by a massive 54 percent on the previous year to \$A32million.

Season-ticket sales were the major factor behind the rise with calculations on the value of the playing staff in the post-Bosman era showing a \$A2million loss.

A statement from Celtic, who returned to their rebuilt ground last season, said: "The dramatic increase in turnover has been predominantly due to the return to Celtic Park, with season ticket totals rising to

29,500 from 18,500 the previous year together with increases in other commercial activities."



Ginola scores winner for Newcastle

English champion Manchester United lost to Italy's Inter Milan for the second time in a fortnight in a pre-season friendly at Old Trafford last week.

United, which swept aside premier league rival Newcastle 4-0 in the English FA Charity Shield the previous Sunday, went down 1-0 to a second half header

from Chilean international Ivan Zamorano, who joined the Serie A side from Real Madrid at the end of last season.

Inter beat United 3-0 in the first leg of the friendly tie in Italy two weeks ago.

Newcastle put its Charity Shield nightmare behind it with an impressive 2-1 win over Belgian league runner-

up Anderlecht.

Colombian forward Faustino Asprilla opened the scoring for Kevin Keegan's side, Anderlecht hit back through Gilles de Bilde but French winger David Ginola scored the winner for Newcastle.

(See front page for Ginola picture)

Rangers cleared for Russia trip

Rangers have said they were not worried about being ordered to play this week's European Cup tie within 48kms of war-torn Chechnya.

The Scottish champions were told by UEFA chiefs that their European Cup preliminary round tie tomorrow is to go ahead in Vladikavkaz.

Vladikavkaz, in the Russian republic of northern Ossetia, is close to where Russian troops have been fighting Chechen rebels.

"UEFA have taken soundings from the British Embassy, the Swiss Embassy, the Red Cross and other agencies and have had no negative feedback whatsoever," said Rangers director Campbell Ogilvie.

"We have also received assurances about our safety from the British Government via the Foreign Office."

Now manager Walter Smith must concentrate the minds of his players for the on-field task against Alania Vladikavkaz despite the "Trip to Hell" headlines in the British press.

Rangers, who have already had to vaccinate their players because of a diphtheria outbreak in the region, flew to Austria yesterday for a stop-over in Vienna.

Smith's side take with them a 3-1 lead from the match at Ibrox last week as they search for a Champions' League place for the third time in five seasons.

But Paul Gascoigne won't be making the trip to Russia.

The England midfielder will be completing a two-match UEFA suspension incurred after a red card against Borussia Dortmund last season.

Ireland squad for qualifer

Alan Kelly (Sheff Utd), Shay Given (Blackburn), Keith Branagan (Bolton), Denis Irwin (Man Utd), Phil Babb (Liverpool), Paul McGrath (Aston Villa), Terry Phelan (Chelsea), Jeff Kenna (Blackburn), Liam Daish (Coventry), Curtis Fleming (Middlesbrough), Gary Breen (Birmingham), Ian Harte (Leeds), Ken Cunningham (Wimbledon), Alán Kernaghan (Man City), Gary Kelly (Leeds), Steve Staunton (Aston Villa), Andy Townsend (Aston Villa, capt), Roy Keane (Man Utd), Ray Houghton (Crystal Palace), Mark Kennedy (Liverpool), Gareth Farrelly (Aston Villa), Alan McLoughlin (Portsmouth), Jason McAteer (Liverpool), Liam O'Brien (Tranmere), Dave Savage (Millwall), Keith O'Neill (Norwich), John Aldridge (Tranmere), Tony Cascarino (Marseilles), Niall Quinn (Man City), Alan Moore

(Middlesbrough), David Connolly (Watford), David Kelly (Sunderland), John Goodman (Wimbledon).



Paul McGrath

Gunners fire manager

The announcement that Arsenal was "releasing" Rioch after only 14 months as manager came as a surprise but club managing director Ken Friar said Arsenal already had identified a successor.

He declined to elaborate but said chairman Peter Hill Wood would announce the new appointment "when he is in a position to do so".

Rioch refused to discuss his dismissal.

"At this point in time I would just very much like to extend my thanks to my players, coaches, staff and the supporters, all of whom have been superb," he said.

"I wish them every future success."

Initial speculation surrounded former England coach Terry Venables who has many admirers at Highbury, but any such move for him now looks too late.

Venables, who quit as national boss at the end of the European championship and who has been consistently linked with Arsenal, even during Rioch's short reign, said he was committed to first division Portsmouth where he is to become general manager.

Rioch's sacking was announced after 14 months at Highbury. He was appointed last year after former manager George Graham left in disgrace following transfer irregularities.

Rioch started with two major signings, Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp from Inter Milan and England skipper David Platt from Sampdoria, costing a combined \$A25million but there have been no more.

Rioch finally signed a deal last month, but pointed out at the time it had not been countersigned by anybody at Arsenal.

Despite leading Arsenal into Europe with a place in the UEFA Cup after finishing fifth in the premier league last season, Rioch had an uneasy relationship with players and club directors.

NEWCASTLE SELLS PLAYER!

Big-spending Newcastle started to recoup some of the \$A30 million spent on Alan Shearer by selling midfielder Robbie Elliott to Blackburn Rovers last week.

Elliott has agreed terms with Rovers but his transfer fee is likely to be settled by a tribunal after the clubs failed to agree.

Subject to a medical, the 22-year-old Geordie was due to sign for Blackburn in time for last Saturday's Premiership opener with Spurs at Ewood Park.

Nottingham Forest, Liverpool and Arsenal have all been linked with Elliott, who has been out of contract at Newcastle this summer. But all were put off by the asking price.

Elliott is the first player to be sold by Newcastle since the record-breaking purchase of Shearer and the club will be looking to receive more than \$A6 million for the youngster.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE WARRINGAH DOLPHINS CHAMPIONS 1995



BACK ROW (L-R): STEVEN RICHES, SEAN SCOTT, STUART CLEARY, ANTHONY SERGAS, MATTHEW BLOOMFIELD, DAVID SEGRETO, STEVE HICKMAN, JOHN KOSMINA.

FRONT ROW (L-R): ROSS EATHERINGTON (C), PHIL MOSS, MATTHEW LOWE, JASON BENNETT, CRAIG SHARPLEY, SAM PANETTA